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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



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Beauty of the 'red clouds'



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Stop at midtown's charity shop

Tang' Roulou just moved from the Gulou area to Sanlitun. Come check out what's new!



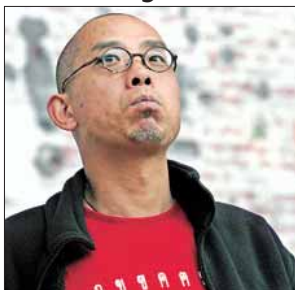
Life in the shadows

Sarah Oppenheim, a 27-year-old French director, fuses two traditional but very different performance arts – Peking Opera and shadow puppetry – in her first play. That synthesis allows her to tell stories set on Earth and in Hell in tandem.

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Documenting a cinema obsession



Wu Wenguang dedicated three decades to creating his documentaries.

But his latest project was born of a revelation: that detachment is the line separating journalism from art.

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Models like the rest of us



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with group
purchases

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Cars on recall
lists could be
a good sign?

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Government splurges on NGO social projects

By Chu Meng

The municipal government announced it intends to spend 100 million yuan on 300 social service projects run by local non-government organizations.

The unprecedented decision marks its first attempt to offer financial support to social organizations that serve the needs of the disadvantaged.

As many as 400 booths were open at the first social organization resources distribution conference, held Monday at the Beijing Conference Center. The government inspected the organizations' applications and selected 300 social service projects for its support.

Wu Shimin, director of the

Beijing Civil Affairs Bureau, said at the conference that the expense was already in the city's budget, and that the support of social organizations would become the norm.

"As the policy matures, the government plans to expand and support more projects," Wu said.

Each project is eligible for between 30,000 and 300,000 yuan during its first year. The government said it would pay for the second year of the project in full if it has a positive impact on society.

Wu said the selection process "would depend on the needs of the public. It is similar to filling citizens' orders; we pay the money and social organizations

provide the service."

Some 80 percent of the projects are expected to better people's daily lives. Another 10 percent will be through key social organizations such as the All-China Women's Federation and the Labor Union.

The remaining 10 percent will be supportive projects, designed to evaluate and supervise the other projects the city is funding.

Deng Guosheng, a professor at Tsinghua University's School of Public Policy and Management, said the decision would benefit all parties.

"The conference is a signal of the government's decision to officially support grassroots social organizations: NGOs," he said.

Sometimes the government has had difficulty collecting first-hand information about changing public needs, he said. Social organizations could do the job better.

Many of the city's 6,953 registered social organizations are short on money – especially the non-profits, Wu said.

The government's support of their projects could help NGOs to overcome their financial difficulties and expand their work.

The financial boost has directly affected 2,706 social service projects from 1,846 social organizations. Projects to alleviate poverty and improve health care and education are the main targets of government spending.

City kindergartens to offer English within five years

By Chu Meng

The municipal government intends to push forward its English education to the kindergarten level within the next five years, according to a draft on the promotion of foreign languages released by the local government last weekend.

As part of its World City vision, all government employees under the age of 40 will be required to master 1,000 basic English sentences related to their daily work, according to the 2011-15 Work Plan of Capital International Language Environment Building.

The plan involves 15 government sectors and service industries including public security, transportation and health care. It is also preparing for the launch of several state-owned English TV channels, broadcasting stations, magazines and newspapers.

The efforts are the city's latest to improve the English skills of its residents in a bid to win a more cosmopolitan image.

The decision follows Shanghai's, which in June announced an eight-year English training program for government officials who are deputy bureau chiefs or above.

In late June, Xi'an, Shaanxi province, also introduced its ambitious plan to become a World City with 10 years. Its proposal would require half its residents to master 900 English sentences.

"It is good for children to learn English in kindergarten. It will save a lot of parents from enrolling their kids in extracurricular English classes outside. The younger a child starts the easier it is to master a foreign language," said Beijing resident Zhang Lili, mother of a 2-year-old boy.

Most Chinese children will eventually be required to study English to pass the university entrance exams, she said.

But she worried the plan would not materialize until after her son started kindergarten.

"Beijing has a serious shortage of public kindergartens. There will probably still be a shortage in five years, as well as a shortage of qualified English teachers," she said.

"There aren't enough English teachers to staff every kindergarten, meaning whoever gets hired will probably cost a lot. Will that cost be passed on to my son and me?" she said.

Other have noted that English is not the only world language that should be spoken in a "World City."

"Why will only English be taught? Kids and middle school students should have more diverse choices in modern language," said Xu Ying, an associate professor of diplomacy at Renmin University's School of International Studies.

"For government employees who may need to use English or other foreign languages for work, only 1,000 basic sentences are far from enough. And if it is a necessity for work, then why not to learn it as soon as possible?" Xu asked.

While the municipal government attempts to further define its "World City" vision, Xu warned that abstract concepts like the city's education level and its cultural and intellectual refinement are as intangible as its spirit.

Current laws don't protect outdoor workers from summer heat

By Han Manman

The heat that baked the nation last week brought renewed focus to labor safety standards, especially those that apply to outdoor labor.

Experts have called on the government to initiate a compulsory standard that would protect the rights and interests of people left working in extreme heat.

Although local outdoor workers have enjoyed a weeklong break from the scorching weather, the record-setting temperatures of July 5 have many fearing the coming weeks.

The capital's meteorological center issued the year's first "orange alert" on July 5 when the temperature hit 40.3 C – the highest July temperature recorded since 1951.

The heat wave is not unique to Beijing. With temperatures surpassing 40 C in a number of Chinese cities, people across the country have been furiously looking for ways to stay cool. For many workers there is little option but to sizzle.

Construction crews, street cleaners and delivery boys are some of the groups struggling in the face of trying conditions.

How to protect their rights during hot weather is an important issue. However, the current Labor Law, Work Safety Law and related regulations do nothing to address the issue.

The only regulation related to laboring in extreme heat was passed in 1960 and only stipulated workplace regulations, medical guarantees and allowances for work during hot summer days. These rules applied only to agriculture, transportation and mining.

Modern industries, like the service sector, are completely unaddressed. Not that it would help – the regulation does not appear to protect workers in the



Current regulation intended to protect outdoor workers during extreme heat do not appear to be enforced.

CFP Photo

fields it specifically names.

In 2007, four ministries issued a notice saying employers should pay allowances to those whose work environment exceeds 35 C.

Few workplaces have adopted these guidelines. Few workers interviewed by *Beijing Today* said they had received an allowance; some were unaware such an allowance existed.

Professor Wang Xiangqian from China Institute of Industrial Relations said the amount employers are required to pay is determined by provincial governments because of variation in regional weather patterns.

Beijing this month doubled the allowance set in 2007 to a minimum of 120 yuan a month for outdoor workers and 90 yuan for indoor workers,

according to a statement from the capital's bureau of human resources and social security.

But employers are evading these extra payments thanks to loopholes in the system and a general lack of enforcement, Wang said.

"Current regulations on labor usually stipulate only what employers should do. They do not set penalties," Wang said. "Local governments should find a way to ensure enterprises follow the regulations."

Heat allowances are not compulsory nationwide and are especially unlikely to be given to migrant construction workers, said Lu Xuejing, a professor of labor economics at Capital University of Economics and Business.

"The government should issue regulations to protect out-

door workers' health – especially because extreme weather is becoming more common," she said.

Employers could also move their shifts to cooler times of the day, shorten working hours and provide heatstroke-prevention medication as part of the allowance, she added.

She said the government needs to update its regulations to differentiate between outdoor and indoor work.

Outdoor work in high temperatures should be restricted or prohibited unless the employers can prove it has taken sufficient protective measures and is willing to pay compensation, she said. Compensation would be calculated based on the intensity of the work and the temperature.

Discounts in numbers?

Perils of the new group purchase market

By Zhang Dongya

For most office workers, the daily grind starts with a trip to several group purchase websites to hunt for new deals.

The phenomenon exploded with the opening of Meituan.com in March, and by the end of June there were over 400 websites organizing group purchases.

These websites estimate that millions of people have made a group purchase during the last three months. That fast growth has generated big profits for a few participants.

However, problems lurk behind the impressive numbers. The current group purchase model was borrowed from overseas markets and has not been adapted to be sustainable in the China market.



The newly opened Jackie Chan Yaolai International Cinema is packing its theaters through group purchases.

Fast access creates boom

On March 4, Meituan.com closed its first deal: wine sold at half price. The site's records show that 79 users signed up for its pioneer group purchase.

Meituan.com was created in March by Wang Xing, known in technology circles as the great imitator. His portfolio of successful sites includes a Facebook clone Renren.com and a Twitter clone Fanfou.com – a site whose banning brought its creator even greater fame.

Group purchasing predated Meituan.com, Wang said. Some of the oldest group purchases date back to 2005.

Unlike past arrangements, the new website model merely provides information, leaving consumers to choose to buy into a group purchase on their own. Group purchases are usually for services, such as discounts at cinemas, restaurants and clubs, rather than physical products. Most are designed to appeal to the office worker lifestyle.

April and May, the peak months of growth, saw four or five new sites emerging daily to serve different locations.

Because service sales are by nature limited to one location, the largest websites are now attempting to branch out. Meituan.com recently extended its services to Shanghai and Wuhan, Hubei province, and plans to enter Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, soon. 24quan, another website founded in March, has branches in Wuhan, Shenzhen and Zhengzhou, Henan province. It plans to enter Shanghai and Changsha, Hunan province, later this month.

More advertising than sales

The biggest group purchase to date was for tickets to the Jackie Chan Yaolai International Cinema.

Nuomi.com, which organized the purchase, reported that 152,160 users bought into the package, which for 40 yuan included two film tickets, two cups of Coca-Cola, a bucket of popcorn and Haagen-Dazs ice cream.

The promotion was Nuomi.com's first when it opened on June 23.

"The cooperation with Nuomi has given our cinema a considerable boost in traffic. Every weekend we receive about 10,000 people, which is a lot for a cinema," said Liu Yi, the cinema's assistant director of marketing.

Jackie Chan Yaolai opened at



The group purchase boom can only be sustained with rational consumers.

CFP Photo

the end of May. Though it was invested in heavily by and named after the famous actor, the cinema had a difficult time drawing traffic to its location inside West Fourth Ring Road.

"[The package] also brought a lot of publicity to Nuomi.com. It was the website's first deal, and it needed something big. Getting more than 150,000 people to visit its site and sign up for a group purchase was certainly big," Liu said.

With the steep discount, many doubt that the cinema is actually making a profit. Liu said there were no plans for further cooperation with Nuomi.com, but that the group purchase did send it a lot of customers, many of whom had not bought their tickets through the group purchase.

Blind buyers and hidden tricks

On group-purchase websites, it is common to see buyers reselling their purchase. Some said they bought the service just because of its low price, not thinking about

how they would find time to use it.

"Many group buyers are irrational and buy just because something is cheap or popular ... Later they learn the goods were never necessary," Gao Huibin, spokesman for 24quan.com, said.

The websites are also blind to the services they are selling. Most cooperation agreements with other businesses are one-off deals, and the website neither knows nor cares about the quality provided by its partner.

"Groupon (a foreign group purchase website) performs data analysis on the service their members received. No domestic companies can do that yet because they don't have enough data," Gao said.

And with more deals being processed, many consumers are complaining about fraud.

Some people who went to dinner on a group-purchased coupon said the food from the group purchase was not enough, forcing them to spend extra once they got inside. Some heading for

the cinema were charged extra on top of the coupon price.

Some service providers have also rejected the coupons outright. According to a report by the Shenzhen Special Zone Daily, a local buyer surnamed Li who presented her coupon at a restaurant was told the package had been canceled because fewer than five people bought into it. Li said the website showed that more than 500 people had bought into it.

Many "super" deals have no hope of being redeemed before they expire. Boat rides to Shidu cannot serve 6,000 people any more than a small restaurant can receive 1,000 patrons.

No credit protection

1288.me, a group purchase website, died within two months of opening and sold off all its assets.

Consumers who ordered shoes on the website found their deals canceled only days later. The company's home page was changed to announce it had been sold for 100,000 yuan. People who asked for a refund were given credit in their e-accounts but no actual money.

The founder Huang Weiyu said he established the website and dealt with the business by himself. He said he was cheated by the shoe

supplier and decided to withdraw. Police are investigating the case.

The low threshold of entry to the new industry worries both insiders and consumers. Online purchase remains completely unregulated, and it is difficult for consumers to obtain evidence that would be needed in a lawsuit.

Some websites are establishing their own regulations and systems to guarantee the consumers' rights. 24quan.com has a protection plan which includes indemnity and an unconditional 72-hour return policy.

"When the shops fail to perform a pre-paid service, the website will compensate for them first before asking for indemnity," Gao said.

But the money can still only be returned to the users' e-accounts.

The China Consumers' Association said it is receiving more complaints about online purchases, and that complaints about group purchases rose 30 percent this year.

"The industry will be sorted out in time. Small business will die and the ones that are left will be regulated," said Lu Yanjie, dean of the School of Economics and Management at Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications.



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2010.9.25 - 10.10

This autumn, China Open will be held at National Tennis Center again. Not only is this a great opportunity for spectators to enjoy the top level tennis match, but also a carnival for young people who have passion for fashion, for tennis and for life. For only ¥ 30, you will watch tennis super stars' performance with no distance, and at the same time enjoy various activities, such as "Looking for Tennis Icon", "Super Model's Show", "Tennis Clothes Show", and the final of "China Open's Angle". Hurry up, join us!

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Sample of 2010 China Open ticket
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Sample of 2010 China Open ticket
— Hospitality Packages



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Video grab taken on May 21 shows Wen Qiang, a high-ranking Chongqing official, standing trial for corruption. He was handed the death sentence.

Heightened war on corruption

New regulation requires officials to declare assets

The government on July 11 issued new anti-corruption rules that require all government and state-owned company officials to report their investments, incomes and assets, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The declaration must also include the financial status and business involvements of their family members, as well as any change in their marital status.

President Hu Jintao has said that fighting corruption is a matter of life and death for the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The regulation added six items to the list of declarable assets issued in 2006, bringing the total to 14. The new items include income from work like lecturing, painting and calligraphy; homes owned by spouses and children; and equities and investments owned by the government worker, his spouse and children.

The new rules, however, stop short of requiring that the incomes and assets of Chinese officials be made public, *China Daily* reported.

Those who fail to comply or submit false information will face "dismissal or discipline," the newspaper said. Previously, the harshest penalty was "informed criticism."

The regulations apply to mid-level to senior CPC officials and executives at state-owned businesses.

(Agencies)

The central government last week issued new rules that require officials in government and state-owned companies to declare their personal assets, as well as the businesses of their spouses and children.

Related

Prosecutors recover 31 bln from corruption

Prosecutors have recovered 31.26 billion yuan through the investigation and prosecution of corruption and bribery cases from 2005 through May this year, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Procuratorial departments nationwide have placed 146,570 corruption and bribery cases on file, involving more than 170,000 people, according to figures released Wednesday at a national conference to fight corruption and

work-related crimes.

Among those investigated were 13,192 officials at or above the county level. Further, 8,776 of the total number of cases involved funds in excess of 1 million yuan.

The prosecution offices apprehended 6,148 fugitives in connection to corruption and bribery cases during this period, including 71 who were living abroad

The third eye

Win, lose or draw? Country's decades-long war on corruption

By Huang Daoheng

The People's Republic first turned its attention to government corruption in 1982. As the battle enters its third decade, the obvious question is whether the country is winning the war. Gao Ying, a professor at Beijing Normal University, said the answer is not clear.

"Because there is no direct way to measure the rate of corruption, and the data we have may not accurately reflect the changes," Gao said.

Earlier this year, the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP), the nation's top prosecuting body, said some 4,000 officials have fled overseas with as much as 340 billion yuan in stolen government funds over the past three decades.

Many went to the US, Canada and Australia, and were able to launder the money, buy real estate and obtain fake IDs through syndicates, the SPP said.

But Gao said the figures don't necessarily mean the country has lost its war on corruption. "The fight against corruption is another Long March for China and has a long way to go," she said. The professor believes the gov-

ernment's recent directive requiring officials to declare their assets is another firm step toward combating corruption.

"The new rules target new problems in social development," Gao said. During the economic transition period, corrupt officials took bribes not only in cash, but also in property, stocks and share rights, so the latest regulation would effectively patch existing holes, she said.

But Gao said the regulation should have more detailed provisions and harsher punishments. "Many corrupt officials have relatives who invest in companies or are involved in business. This happens. And you cannot expect the suspects to report this," she said.

In the late 1990s, Gao said the Beijing municipal government considered enforcing anti-corruption rules by publicizing the personal assets of its officials. But Beijing dropped the idea after a study in two provinces showed the regulation would have a limited effect.

"You filled it out on your own and nobody would check the declarations," she said. "It's rare to find a person who will fill it out honestly."

New foundation aims to add transparency to Chinese charities

Some of the world's most recognized philanthropists gathered in Beijing this past week for the launch of the China Foundation Center, a new organization that aims to help increase the transparency of Chinese charities, which have struggled with public suspicion of mismanagement and even corruption.

The organization looks to bolster trust in Chinese foundations by making information about their activities available to the public and to encourage more participation in charitable work. The center's website will initially archive data on more than 1,800 foundations across the country.

The launch brought together Chinese and international philanthropic leaders, including Peter Geithner, father of the US Treasury secretary and a former long-time leader of the Ford Foundation, and Xu Yongguang, founder of Project Hope, China's largest non-governmental social welfare group.

Many of them described China Foundation Center as mirroring crucial steps taken to improve the credibility of philanthropic organizations in the US in the 1950s.

Establishing greater transparency and self-governance models in the US "was the product of both crisis and extraordinary vision," said Bradford Smith, president of the US Foundation Center, on which the new Chinese center is largely modeled.

As in China today, where there is mistrust in the relationships between foundations, the government and the public, Smith said US foundations in the 1950s were scrutinized as being "un-American." The Foundation Center in the US has advised China's philanthropic leaders that improving self-governance will benefit the entire sector.

In the wake of natural disasters, like the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan and the more recent one in Qinghai Province, the Chinese public has demonstrated itself to be a powerful force in times of crisis.

"The public is wishing for more transparent foundations," said Victor Yuan, a leading Chinese thinker on social responsibility and founder of Horizon Research Consulting Group, the nation's biggest polling firm. "And the message we should derive from this is the public wants to put its money where the transparency is."

Meanwhile, the interaction between the Chinese government and charitable organizations remains unclear. But despite its ambivalence toward private-sector philanthropy, the government has also participated in its own recent push to bolster donations. In one example, Wang Zhenyao, a former official with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, recently established China's first philanthropic research center. Wang has since called on China's billionaires to donate at least 1 million yuan annually to charity.

(The Wall Street Journal)

Auto recalls expose need for regulation

By Chu Meng

New numbers released Monday by the China Automotive Technology and Research Center showed auto sales grew more than 30 percent year on year to 7.18 million during the first half of the year.

The growth was reassuring evidence for foreign brands that have made the China market their top priority. But sales growth came in lockstep with recalls.

During the same period of growth, 34 recalls affected 580,000 vehicles. Because the China market is dominated by joint ventures and imports, Chinese consumers have become the worst-hit victims of recalls.

Bao Lei, a 28-year-old Beijing architect, plans to drive home her newly imported Volkswagen Beetle this weekend. After three months of discussion with her family, she opted to spend more money on a car with fewer features.

Joint venture brands generally have a better price and quality assurance, but that did little to convince Bao.

"When I checked my list of potential purchases, Volkswagen was the only carmaker with no record of recalls last year," she said.

Overwhelming recalls

Bao's worries are shared by many Chinese consumers.

In China, most car buyers are purchasing their first vehicle. Drivers cannot identify potential quality concerns from a test drive and Internet reviews, so most look to the recall record when deciding on a product.

The spike in recalls during the past two months has shaken shopper confidence in many brands.

According to data from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), there were 34 recalls affecting 580,000

vehicles during the first half of the year alone.

Several luxury and mid- to high-end automobile brands were on the list, including Lexus, Cadillac, Volvo and Lamborghini. The past 50 days alone have seen 15 recalls.

According to AQSIQ's website, the recalls will not end any time soon.

Daimler Northeast Asia will recall seven Axor trucks in China due to a possible oil leak. Subaru of China is recalling 9,457 imported vehicles due to a defective steering column electrical-roll connector.

On Monday, Toyota will begin its recall of 5,791 Lexus LS cars sold on the mainland because of engine defects. The same day, competing Japanese carmaker Honda will start a recall of 165 Civics and Streams sold in China due to airbag defects.

"I've lost confidence in Toyota," said Xu He, a 26-year-old who shelved his plan to purchase a Vios after the Japanese carmaker's massive global recall earlier this year. "Constant recalls have ruined Toyota's reputation. Despite fuel efficiency



and competitive prices, I will probably choose another brand," Xu said.

Toyota announced last Thursday that another 270,000 cars sold across the world may have faulty engines.

Regulation a weak point

"Recalls, albeit unpleasant, protect consumers' interests and reveal a company's integrity," Hui Boyang, deputy director of quality management at AQSIQ, said.

However, "at present in China, bad news is better than no news for the average consumer. [Recalls are] much better than the companies which do nothing to address safety problems," he said.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, AQSIQ and international trade experts and lawmakers are developing regulations that would govern the recall of defective autos.

The new law would protect the world's largest consumer group and tighten quality controls on the products of joint ventures and foreign brands.

A draft version of the new regulation was posted July 5 on the website of AQSIQ's Defective Product Administrative Center to receive public comment. The draft is expected to be finalized and issued by the end of the year.

Under the new regulations, manufacturers who acknowledge flaws in their products but do not volunteer to recall them are subject to fines of 200,000 to 500,000 yuan and could face criminal prosecution.

Manufacturers who refuse to shoulder responsibilities for their flawed products would be fined three times the value of the goods and could have their licenses and certificates revoked or face criminal charges.

China issued its first Regulations on Defective Automobile Products Recall in March 2004 to strengthen quality supervision and enhance road safety. The weak regulations penalized delinquent auto makers with a maximum fine of 30,000 yuan.

"I look forward to the new regulations and hope there will be laws to protect our rights when a quality flaw causes injury. Every time I hear news about car problems I worry mine will be next," Qi Xin, a 32-year-old Beijing owner of a 2009 Buick Regal, said.

"The reason Toyota handled its China recall so differently from its US recall is that Chinese law is not strict enough. The penalties are so slight that auto manufacturers simply refuse to recall their faulty vehicles," Chen Beiyuan, managing partner at Dacheng Law Office in Beijing, said.

The regulations have other loopholes, too.

Current regulations fail to stipulate how a carmaker must compensate customers if a defective product causes injury or economic loss. "The new regulations will strengthen quality control, and that is good news for consumers," Chen said.

Free lesson for China brands

Being less developed can sometimes be an advantage. Because the Chinese car industry still lags so far behind its foreign competitors, the recall scandal offers a chance to learn from their mistakes.

Hui Boyang said on a TV interview that the rapid expansion of the Chinese auto manufacturing industry has become a concern for the government, especially after the latest episodes with Toyota.

Toyota's CEO said that his company's rapid growth and blind expansion dealt a devastating blow to the quality and safety of its vehicles.

"China's own brands like Geely and BYD are experiencing what Japanese brands experienced decades ago. Even when development turns rapid, the product's safety and quality and consumers' rights must come first," Hui said.

Google China granted new ICP license

By Huang Daohen

Google has been granted a one-year extension to its Internet Content Provider (ICP) license associated with Google.cn, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology confirmed over the weekend.

As of press time, Google.cn still displayed a large graphic with the Google logo and a fake search box and caption stating "Please bookmark our web address." Users who clicked the graphic were redirected to Google.com.hk.

However, below this image Google reattached its ICP license number. The site is permitted to offer only three services: music search, shopping search and Google translation.

Xinhua News Agency reported that the license was granted to Google.cn's operator Beijing Guxiang Information Technology. In an application letter submitted to authorities, Guxiang pledged to abide by the country's Internet laws and ensure no law-breaking content would be published.

Early reports said the renewal indicated Google would return to the mainland market. A report published July 13 by the *Global Times* said it more directly: "Google ended up surrendering to China."

The company gave the government an ultimatum earlier this year, demanding that it no longer be required to censor its search results. When it did not get its way, Google left China and the website Google.cn was redirected to Google Hong Kong at Google.hk.com.

To market watchers, the government's decision to renew the license came as a shock. "The decision means Google can stay in China," Wen Yijun, an analyst at Oriental Securities in Beijing, said.

Obtaining an ICP license is crucial for any website in China, Wen said. Without an ICP license, Google would not be allowed to operate Google.cn and G.cn, its commercial websites estimated to be worth \$20 million (135.5 million yuan).

The country began requiring ICP licenses in 2000. All websites that operate on the mainland are required to obtain a license.

It is relatively easy for domestic companies to obtain a license, but foreign ones must jump through special hoops, Wen said.

Foreign companies are required to partner with a local company to share its license. Google first applied for its ICP license in 2005, but the license was not granted until 2007. Between those dates it used the license of the local company Ganji.com.

Wen said the renewal shows that foreign companies like Google are getting more understanding from the government.

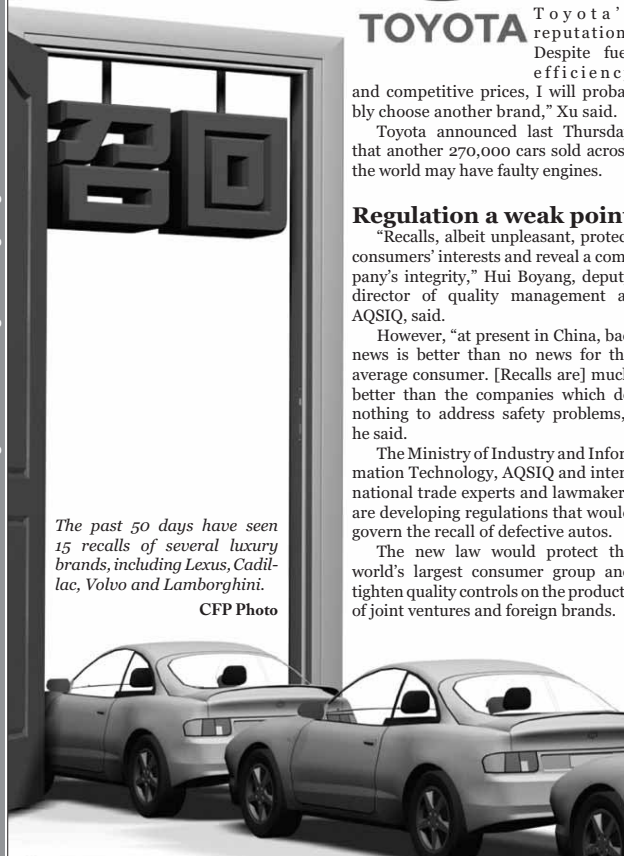
"The government cares about its image as supportive of international investment. Even after all Google's insults, the government does not want to kick it out of China," he said.

Google's renewal might be a setback for Baidu, Wen said. Baidu's share price soared to \$82 from \$40 after Google's January scandal. That stock price had eased back to \$70 as of press time.

"Google's success in renewing its license was a surprise, as the capital market was planning for its gradual exit," Wen said, "It will have a negative impact on Baidu's share."

The past 50 days have seen 15 recalls of several luxury brands, including Lexus, Cadillac, Volvo and Lamborghini.

CFP Photo



Rethinking the meaning of success

By Huang Daohen

Success in China has long been defined along the lines of fame, fortune, influence, career or educational achievements and a happy family. Tang Jun, former president of Microsoft China, once the highest-paid employee in the country and holder of a doctor's degree, embodied the ideal of success.

But his good name has been sullied in recent weeks after questions were raised about the legitimacy of his Ph.D. diploma. The controversy touched off new discussions about how Chinese people regard integrity and success.

Fang Zhouzi, a "science cop" who has earned a reputation for uncovering deception, found a new target in Tang Jun, now CEO of New Huadu Group, on July 1. A post on his Sina microblog showed evidence that Tang faked his resume.

Fang said Tang lied about his education and inventions in his biography, *My Success Can Be Replicated*. In the book, Tang said he received a Ph.D. degree in computer science from the California Institute of Technology.

Tang responded through a press release, saying he never claimed to hold a Ph.D. from Caltech; instead, he said his degree was from Pacific Western University.

Fang shot back by revealing on his blog that Pacific Western was not an accredited university and was once shut down by the US government. Tang has remained silent, but he was quoted by Monday's *Beijing News* as saying that he could understand people questioning his honesty. But "they didn't know the truth," and he would "reveal the truth at the proper time."

Tang was also quoted by the paper as saying: "Losers cheat some people and get caught. Winners cheat the whole world all the time."

Tang was due to be interviewed by Shanghai-based CBN on Monday to clear his name, but failed to appear. His assistant said later he needed one more week.

The scandal has triggered a discussion on how success is defined by Chinese people. According to an online survey carried out by Sina.com, one of the country's top Internet portals, a majority of respondents said they would forgive Tang for any deception because of the success he has achieved in the business world.

"Don't ask about a hero's roots. You shouldn't judge a manager by his education background," one netizen said.

Observers said the comments show that people value career achievements and wealth over honesty and integrity, and that people believe "winners" can redefine social rules.



Tang Jun's biography "My Success Could Be Copied", remains on bookstore shelves. CFP Photo

Comment

Success is different things

Success is just as hard to define as love. Some people feel a sense of accomplishment by traveling the world, meeting new friends and understanding foreign cultures; others get fulfillment in doing charity work; and still others find it in making billions of dollars. For me, success has very little to do with money. I define it by the quality of life I lead.

— Clare Zhang, college teacher

Titles are temporary

Society's weakness is that it attaches so much importance to

titles — what is written on a piece of paper. But these things are temporary; the most successful people often work quietly, giving the world immeasurable contributions, and die without any noise.

— Roberto, media editor

Integrity is paramount

How can you trust a man without integrity? If the country's financial institutions are staffed by dishonest people with fake credentials, China faces immense danger. Sooner or later, funds will be misappropriated, leaving our financial

institutions high and dry. The authorities should take this seriously and ensure that cheating is dealt with according to law.

— Lillian Chen, PR manager

Success is not dishonesty

The loss of honesty is bound to erode the moral foundation of social justice, making people slaves of wealth — a condition that makes them ignore abuses of power. The criteria to evaluate a good life should be as diverse as life itself, but honesty is a prerequisite in all its aspects.

— Southern Metropolis Daily

News background

Diploma mills in the US

There are a number of US universities — known as "diploma mills" — that exist merely to sell academic credentials through distance-learning programs, the Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences said in a recent report. It added that these universities earn the equivalent of as much as 100 million yuan a year.

Foreign universities are not allowed to confer a master's degree and anything higher to students on the Chinese mainland without approval from the Academic Degree Commission of the State Council, Pan Helin, director of the Guangdong-based EMBA Teaching Center under

Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, was quoted by the *People's Daily* as saying. Thus, Pan said, master's and doctor's degrees issued by these universities are likely fake.

In 2004, the US Government Accountability Office published a list of universities without accreditation from the Department of Education, which included Pacific Western University, Alabama-based Barrington University, Mississippi-based Lacrosse University, California-based California Coast University, Wyoming-based Hamilton University, California-based Kennedy-Western University and Pennsylvania-based La Salle University.

Pan said diploma mills often use names that are similar to those of well-known universities. For example, Hamilton University, which is not certified by the Department of Education, sounds a lot like Hamilton College, a top-ranked liberal arts school in New York.

Tang Jun aside, there are also Chinese celebrities trapped in the fake diploma dispute. In 2001, Wu Zheng, former president of Sun Media Group and husband of renowned TV hostess and businesswoman Yang Lan, was exposed to have faked his Ph.D. diploma. Wu's doctoral degree was obtained at Barrington University mentioned above.

Can officials learn three foreign languages in three days?

By Zhao Hongyi

The city government of Kunming, Yunnan province, last month instructed its 130,000 officials and employees to undergo a three-day training course in five foreign languages, *Yunnan Information Daily* said in a report.

The course covered a compulsory 300 sentences in English and 20 basic sentences and phrases in the Southeast Asian languages Thai, Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian, the newspaper said.

In a telephone interview with *Beijing Today*, officials running the language program said they made adjustments to the course, allowing trainees to choose only two Southeast Asian languages. But they added that each person had to learn 100 sentences and phrases from their two chosen languages.

They emphasized that learning Thai, Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian are critical to the work of Kunming civil servants since the city is the gateway to Southeast Asia.

A member of the city's People's Congress surnamed Zhang, who passed the course, described the final examination as "very easy."

Another official, from the city's party committee, said he studied English and Thai over 10 sessions, while some employees revealed that they passed the exam after taking only one hour of classes. The trainees included public school teachers, from kindergarten all the way to university.

The course cost 350 yuan per person, which translated to 45.5 million yuan for all Kunming civil servants. "We carried out this training course according to the law," an official supervising the program said. "All expenses for the training will be reimbursed from the city budget."

The official emphasized that the selection of language trainers was a transparent process. "Six training program providers won the contract," he said, "then related government agencies sat down with them to discuss the details."

The training program has ended and government officials are now evaluating its results. They said they plan to hold refresher courses from time to time.

For most participants, however, the course was impractical. Some said they rarely have a chance to practice what they learned and expect to soon forget it "since we're all very busy with work."

Comment

Unregulated use of funds

They're using public money to provide these meaningless courses. Who approved their training plans? Who gave them the right to use the city budget? We should build a more effective government structure.

— Haijiaotianya, netizen

Worth the try

The training has its uses, especially since Yunnan neighbors countries like Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. But officials supervising the training should have found a better way for their employees to learn and master a foreign language, and check their proficiency. This should not just be a show!

— Nathan Dale, US expat in Beijing

Waste of money

All these so-called training programs are just about spending money. Doesn't the city government, as well as its officials, have better ideas about how to train its employees?

— Chen Shouhu, commentator

American mom seeks donor match for daughter with leukemia

By Li Zhixin

An American mother came to China two weeks ago hoping to find a suitable donor for her adopted 16-year-old daughter, who was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, a fatal blood disease, in 2006 and suffered a relapse in April.

Sherrie Cramer, 56, of Sacramento, California, has found it difficult to find a donor for her daughter Katie, who is an ethnic Zhuang. Her recent trip to China — her fourth — was because chances of finding a perfect match for Katie are greater among people of similar ancestry.

Cramer and her husband Michael adopted Katie 15 years ago from the Liuzhou Social Welfare Institute in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

"I keep reminding myself that it only takes one person to be that match," Cramer said. "Though it



Cramer with Katie (right) and other family members

Photo provided by Cramer

will be like finding a needle in a haystack, we must try."

Cramer said Katie couldn't believe that she would go all the

way to China to help find her a donor, considering how slim the chances were. "She is still a young lady and doesn't realize

that parents will go through about anything to help their children," Cramer said. "Though I know she knows I love her, I'm sure this cemented the fact in her heart and mind."

The mother was moved when she saw many people lining up at the local donation center after they heard Katie's story. She phoned her daughter, who had been sent to the intensive-care unit at Kaiser Hospital in Roseville, California, to tell her how many people were trying to help. "I believe this good news can bring her more inner power," she said.

Cramer had planned to visit the province of Yunnan and Guangdong, where there is a large population of Zhuang, but Katie's unstable condition forced her to cut her trip short. "Katie was having some difficulty with a lung infection, so I have to be home to help care for my daughter," she

said. Cramer left on Saturday.

The mother said Katie is a very strong girl. Just three months ago, she was chosen as Miss Teenage runner-up of her school. "She is not a complainer and does what she needs to do with very little fight. She has a lot of friends and family who are standing behind her in this fight and that encourages her," Cramer said.

The couple has finally received some potential donors' blood samples through the Chinese Marrow Donor Program (CMDP). So far, 41 samples from US donors have all failed.

"I hope that people throughout China will push to become a donor on the CMDP registry. This may help Katie and will more than likely help others in the future," Cramer said.

To join the registry, contact Guangxi Red Cross at 0771-5891561.

Dialogue between Peking Opera and shadow puppetry

By Liang Meilan

Theater directors have long tried improving art by combining different elements to create innovative results. But Sarah Oppenheim, a 27-year-old French director, has taken creativity to another level by fusing two traditional but very different Chinese performance art forms: Peking Opera and shadow puppetry.

Oppenheim calls it experimental Peking Opera. "In the play, Peking Opera actors and puppeteers act in concert," she said. "The drape where the puppets perform is also used by the actors, who are themselves transformed into shadows and puppets."

Her first experiment was a ghost play called *The Execution of the Judge of Hell*, which debuted last summer and will be presented again on August 5-8 at Fangjia Hutong's No. 46 Theater.

The story is adapted from a famous traditional Peking Opera, *The Beheading of the Judge* ("Zha Panguan"), which is about a judge named Bao Gong and a murder case. The supernatural part of the opera inspired Oppenheim, who decided to find new approaches to stage her own version of the story.

Oppenheim fell in love with theater at a young age and set early goals of becoming a stage director. After graduating with a literature degree, she entered Paris' Ecole Normale Supérieure in 2003, where she majored in theater and Chinese. She did her thesis on Chinese theater — more specifically, plays involving ghosts.

"I took Chinese ghost plays as my research subject because I find it an interesting performance



In Oppenheim's opera, the real actors are the ghosts.

Photos provided by Sarah Oppenheim

art that can perfectly present stories happening in both Earth and Hell, which is something not seen in French theater," Oppenheim said. "To present the dead on stage is a great challenge."

To gather firsthand materials, Oppenheim spent all of 2004 wandering the Chinese countryside in Anhui, Jiangxi and Guizhou provinces, tracking down exorcist theater productions such as Nuo opera and talking with native artists to grasp the true sense of the Chinese ghost play. Around that time, Oppenheim began thinking about creating her own ghost play.

"I finally picked up the famous story Zha Panguan in its original edition because it is well plotted

with love affairs and justice all rolled in one," Oppenheim said.

The minor character Youliugui (oil pouring demon) really inspired the young director, who made the ghost the main character in her story. "In the original, Youliugui is the one who sees the murder," Oppenheim said. "Though a common character, without his testimony the judge cannot make the right judgment. By presenting the story from his perspective, I want to tell the audience that it's not only the judge, but all common people who have the responsibility to uphold justice."

Oppenheim struggled to bring her play to life until a lucky encounter with the Han Feizi

shadow puppet troupe, a family operation committed to promoting and preserving shadow puppetry. Oppenheim became a disciple, spending an arduous year learning to "walk" her puppet.

"I consider the troupe my family in China," she said. "I've learned a lot about shadow puppetry with them and, what's more, I got the inspiration for staging my new play."

"I found that the bright Peking Opera backdrops and the dark shadow puppet screens are perfect forms to represent Earth and Hell. The performance also takes on motion montage processes to lead the audience into a transitory world between life and death, humans and ghosts,



Sarah Oppenheim

actors and shadows."

Oppenheim then joined poet, dramatist and puppet patriarch Han Feizi for two years trying to create her play. "I'm quite lucky to have met and received help from friends like Han Feizi and his troupe as well as Zhang Shaohua, artistic counselor with Beijing Peking Opera Theater," Oppenheim said. "Without their efforts on designing actions, picking music and training actors, the play wouldn't have been realized."

The Execution of the Judge of Hell's plot is suited to young, modern audiences, but Oppenheim has tried her best to keep the aesthetic elements of Peking Opera. The play in some ways reflects Oppenheim's view of the world in some ways. She uses puppets to represent living characters and real actors as the ghosts, indicating that in real life, it's the living who are restricted by boundaries and societal mores and expectations.

"With ghosts on stage as real people, the audience will witness a dream-like scene," the director said. "They see what the ghost sees and think what they think. A magical effect is thus generated. Hopefully the audience questions, 'Are we dreaming of Hell or are we the dream of those in Hell?'"

South African Embassy celebrates successful World Cup



South African communities partying with soccer fans to celebrate successful end to the World Cup Photo provided by South African Embassy

By Han Manman

The four-week long FIFA World Cup ended Monday with Spain taking home the trophy. Besides some transportation and ticketing glitches, the first World Cup on the African continent was a huge success.

To celebrate this milestone, the South African Embassy in Beijing hosted a big party this week for its citizens in town as well as for diplomats from the 32 Cup-participating nations.

"South Africans are very proud of what we have done for the World Cup, and we made history by being the first African country to host the World Cup," Consul General

Vika Khumalo said.

Some critics earlier predicted that the South Africa World Cup would be a failure and a disappointment. Khumalo said reality proved these doomsayers wrong, with South Africans' hospitality, the exciting matches and nice volunteers making the deepest impression on visitors.

For South Africans, successfully hosting the quadrennial soccer tournament was not only a matter of pride but also key to strengthening the economy, tourism industry and national unity, Khumalo said. The government expects the publicity to boost foreign investment and inbound tourism.

According to official statistics, during the Cup's first three weeks, 650,000 foreign visitors came to South Africa, 44 percent more than the 450,000 initially expected. This resulted in increased hotel bookings, car rentals and sales of World Cup memorabilia, including the ubiquitous *vuvuzela*. The advertising sector is also expected to benefit from increased spending.

The Beijing Embassy said the competition created some 130,000 jobs for locals, with stadium construction alone generating 20,000 new jobs. Construction workers who received special training will be recruited to help with

future state construction projects, it said.

The South African Treasury previously forecast that the month-long tournament would add 0.4 percent to GDP this year.

Khumalo believes the 2010 World Cup's success will change the opinion that African countries are not capable of staging world-class events, as well as encourage other African nations to follow South Africa's lead.

"We hope people's view of African countries has become more optimistic because of the World Cup, especially the view of investors and businessmen," he said.

'Quotations of Fidel Castro' published in Chinese

By Zhao Hongyi

The Chinese edition *Quotations of Fidel Castro* was released by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Monday in celebration of the semicentennial of bilateral relations between China and Cuba.

The book, first published in Spanish last year to mark the 50th anniversary of the victory of the revolution led by Castro in Cuba, is a compilation of thousands of quotations from speeches by the Cuban political leader. His words cover a wide area, including economics and culture, and discuss subjects like revolution, ideology, morality, ethics and values.

The book was translated from the original text by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' (CASS) Institute of Latin American studies. Since its release, *Quotations* has been widely read in communist and socialist nations such as China.

Li Shenming, vice president of CASS, said the book has a key role in the study and research of Marxism and socialism in the world today.

"The disintegration of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe plunged Marxism and socialism to its depths, but Marxists and Communists haven't given up their beliefs of struggle," Li said at the book's launch, "instead, they're continuing their studies, analyses and research, aiming to combine Marxist philosophy with the realities of their countries."

The process that gave birth to Castro's philosophy, Li said, was the same one that led to the development in China of Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theories, Three Represents and Scientific Outlook of Development.

"All these theories support the development of varied forms of socialism, such as those in China and Cuba," Li said, "and give us hope for the future of socialism."

Mario Alzugaray, chargé d'affaires of the Cuban Embassy in Beijing said he hopes scholars from both countries can work together to study present trends in Marxism and socialism.

Ancient Czech astronomer's work relates to modern issues

By Chu Meng

Three hundred years ago, Czech scientist Karel Slávicek studied Chinese astronomy at the Beijing Ancient Observatory. Now, his contributions to the field are on exhibit at the very same observatory. The collection is expected to spark further discussion on issues like environmentalism, transportation and the conservation of cultural heritage sites.

Slávicek, an astronomer and mathematician from the town of Jimramov in today's Czech Republic, came to Beijing from Lisbon, Portugal as a Jesuit missionary in 1714. Twenty-one years later, he became the first Czech to bring to the West knowledge of Oriental culture and the Chinese language.

"Slávicek was on a mission, not only in the sense of being a religious missionary, but also to create a bridge between the

cultures of Europe and China," Libor Secka, ambassador of the Czech Republic, said during remarks at the exhibition opening Monday.

In 1722, many Jesuits in the capital were expelled to Guangzhou, but Slávicek's scientific merit enabled him to stay. He defended the wisdom of Chinese astronomy, especially the 60-year cycle, the basis of the lunar calendar. He also said China was the most educated and civilized nation of his time.

The exhibition, which features translations of Slávicek's letters and works, will be run through October.

Yu Sanle, executive president of the Association for Matteo Ricci Studies in China, expressed his appreciation of such an exhibition. "It will not only arouse people's curiosity about early academic cooperation between China and the West, but also

attract more people to come and visit the Beijing Ancient Observatory, which now is one of few cultural heritages in the urban area," Yu said.

Jing Hairong, vice director of the observatory, said Slávicek's exhibition is the Beijing Ancient Observatory's first collaboration with the Czech Embassy, but that he hopes there will be more scientific cooperation between the two sides.

"China is a developing country, and I hope that through our efforts we can continue to make the vision, 'One World, One Dream,' come true," Jing said, referring to the theme of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Veronika Musilova, third secretary at the Czech Embassy, said she hopes the exhibition will boost Sino-Czech cooperation, as well as inspire more Chinese people to visit observatories in the Czech Republic.



Ancient Chinese astronomical instruments at the Beijing Ancient Observatory Photo provided by Czech Embassy

NGO auctioning off model of courtyard gate for preservation



Siheyuan front door

Photo by Peter Carney

By Liang Meilan

The Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (CHP) is introducing a new twist to local fund-raising by auctioning off a clay model of a courtyard gate at its cocktail party tomorrow.

The event, to be held at Three Shadows Photography Art Center in Caochangdi, aims to raise funds for the center's Cultural Action Network (CAN) volunteer program, which trains members how to assess at-risk cultural and historical sites across the country.

"The [volunteer] network will raise awareness of the value of heritage sites, document the current state of cultural heritage protection across China and provide early warning of impending threats," Zhang Pei, the center's project officer, said.

"These reports will be the basis for CHP action when working with the Chinese media, government and citizens to improve heritage preservation in each community," Zhang said.

The model gate to be auctioned off – considered a collector's item – is the work of 20 local and foreign artists who each put his or her stamp on the piece.



Limited edition T-shirt designed for the event by NLGX Design

Photo provided by Zhang Pei

"The siheyuan gate symbolizes the importance of preserving Beijing's cultural heritage," Wu Lili, the center's managing director,

said. "It is a nod to the days and people of Old Beijing, and a look ahead to saving what remains of a country and culture with the richest history in the world."

The NGO has recently launched a micro site, doyouhutong.com, which allows the public to interact with its staff and contribute to the discourse on cultural heritage preservation. Users can upload photos to the site that capture Old Beijing and its charm, and post their answer to the question, "Do you hutong?" Special features of the site will be exhibited at tomorrow's gathering.

"The event connects preservation with cultural expression – original art, photography, music and digital dialogue – to illustrate why preservation matters," Wu said. "It is a unique opportunity for CHP to inform the public, build consensus and raise funds for our grassroots initiatives."

Tickets to the fundraiser are 150 yuan. To purchase a ticket or to find out more, call 6403 6532.

Event

Sport for social change

Social Innovation Meet-up, a group that organizes monthly talks on social innovation and entrepreneurship, will be discussing "Sport for Social Change" tomorrow afternoon. Participants will learn how organizations in China are using sports to empower people and drive social change.

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dongmianhua Hutong (off Nanluguxiang), Xicheng District

When: July 17, 2-4 pm

Tel: 15010870879

Cost: Free

Grasp a vanishing Beijing

Because of modernization and urbanization, more and more old blocks are being razed to give way to apartments and office buildings. This hike through Beijing's vanishing historical quarters is a great way to get out for a day and learn something new about the capital.

Where: meet at Exit C of Hepingmen station on Subway Line 2

When: July 17, 1:30-4 pm

Tel: 15117916648

Cost: Free

Reporting on environmental issues

This talk will feature Jonathan Watts, the first Asia environment correspondent for Britain's *The Guardian*. Watts will discuss the challenges of environmental reporting and give his perspective on why China's environmental challenges are different from those of other countries at similar stages of economic development.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 4 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: July 18, 11 am – 12:30 pm

Tel: 8459 9269

Cost: Free

(By Liang Meilan)

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Outdoor swimming pools a rare, pricey pleasure

By Zhao Hongyi

Swimming is the best way to cool off in summer. But in water-strained Beijing, it is not easy to find an affordable outdoor swimming pool downtown.

Right now only three outdoor pools are open to the public – those in Qingnianhu Park, Tuanjiehu Park and Chaoyang Park – which charge an average entrance fee of 20 yuan.

A survey conducted by the Beijing Gymnasium Association found that within Fourth Ring Road, the entrance fee to outdoor pools has steadily climbed in the past decade.

"In the '50s and '60s, Beijing had only three outdoor pools, namely Shichahai Swimming Pool, Workers' Stadium Swimming Pool and Taoranting Swimming Pool, and the price was only 0.10 yuan," said Zhang Xiansen, an elderly Beijinger.

Since then, the number of indoor and outdoor pools has

significantly increased – but so has their entrance fees, according to the association. The pools now number 72, of which 47 are open to the public. Most charge a minimum of 50 yuan per person.

The reason for the price hike, the association said, is the rapidly increasing operational costs, such as the price of water and maintenance.

Outdoor pools need heavy maintenance, especially in winter since sub-zero temperatures can break the pool's water pipes, the association said. And in summer, the pools cannot easily recover costs because they are almost always empty during the rainy season. "Relying on ticket sales is not enough to support operation," Zhang Xiuqin, an association officer, said.

Poor sanitation and aging facilities are other reasons keeping customers away, particularly the younger generation.

Taoranting Swimming Pool, opened in 1956, was closed earlier this year for major upgrades. It is expected to emerge a more luxurious and higher-standard pool before year's end.

To attract more customers, the pools at Qingnianhu Park, Tuanjiehu Park and Chaoyang Park have added entertainment programs, improved sanitation and enhanced first-aid services.

Lu Ping, manager of the Qingnianhu pool, said the park averages 1,000 swimmers in summertime despite increasing its ticket price to 15 yuan. Lu credits the brisk business to financial and logistical support from the district government.

Meanwhile, some locals who shun pricey swimming pools are diving into rivers downtown and in the suburbs. But this is very risky, Zhang said, citing the lack of lifeguards and safety provisions.

Chaoyang Park

Where: 1 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 10 am – 9:30 pm

Tel: 6591 5258

Price: 15 yuan per adult (excluding 5 yuan park entrance), 50 yuan per adult for a season pass; children enter free

Qingnianhu Park

Where: Andingmen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8411 6321

Price: 25 yuan per adult, 20 yuan for children

Tuanjiehu Park

Where: 16 Tuanjiehu

Nan Li, Dong Sanhuan

Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 10:30 am –

7:30 pm

Tel: 8597 4677

Price: 25 yuan per adult (Monday – Friday), 30 yuan per adult (weekend), children enter free



Outdoor pool resembling a tropical resort CFP Photo

First motor vehicle campsite opens

By Liang Meilan

China's first ever campsite for motor vehicles opened in Huairou District early this month, allowing the country to gain ground on foreign national parks and scenic spots.

HuaiBei International Vehicle Campsite, located at Jiukougu Natural Scenic Resort, is popular for its Karst landform and landscape along the Great Wall. In winter, the resort's slopes are packed with downhill skiers.

"To make full use of this inviting natural environment in summertime, we took some skiers' suggestions and turned it into a campsite catering to RVs (recreational vehicles), as well as city dwellers who want to spend time in the countryside," Wang Shitong, the campsite's manager, said.

"There are several so-called car camping venues in town, but

only this one can be ranked as a real vehicle campsite because its construction meets the standards set by the International Camping and Caravanning Federation," he said.

Campgrounds for RVs, covering 60 square meters each, provide hookups for water and electricity, as well as toilet water disposal. "We've also equipped them with European-standard waterproof plugs for car charging that match all RV brands," Wang said.

The site has 20 large RVs for rent that are equipped with a bedroom, living room and kitchen.

The campgrounds also have space for 400 cars. "[Tourists] don't need to worry about hygiene. We've installed facilities such as laundry rooms, showers and a clinic. Rescue patrol with first aid-equipment can be easily reached if an accident happens," Wang said.

Backpackers and hikers can also set up camp in the woods. "Cookouts, charcoal grills, all-terrain vehicle driving and fishing, all these outdoor activities make the campsite an ideal place for get-togethers," Wang said.

Entrance to the campsite is 20 yuan per person and a tent for two people costs 50 yuan.

For more information, call 8486 9353 or visit jjski.net.

Zoemo RV Rental

Where: Stall 2102, Xinyayun Automobile Market, Dongsanqi, Beiqijiazhen, Changping District

Tel: 8177 8267

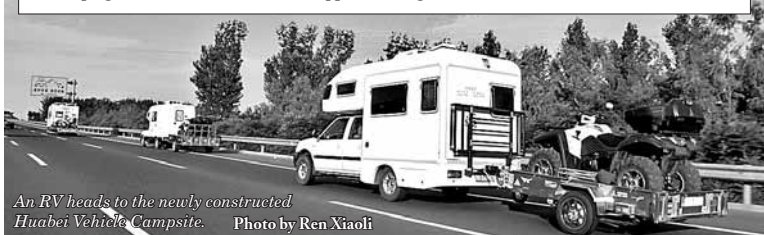
Web: zoeco.com.cn

Zhongtianxing RV Club

Where: Room 1706, Building C, Yihe Mansion, 12 Dongtucheng Lu, Hepingli, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6422 9339

Webs: ztxrv.com



An RV heads to the newly constructed Huabei Vehicle Campsite. Photo by Ren Xiaoli

Foreigners, Chinese agent nabbed for faking residence permit documents

By Zhao Hongyi

Two foreigners were recently taken into custody by Beijing police for using fake documents to apply for residence permits, while their Chinese accomplice was jailed for 10 days.

Shen Bin (pseudonym), a migrant worker from Jilin province, submitted bogus papers at the Public Security Bureau's (PSB) Entry-Exit Administration on behalf of the two foreigners, saying he wanted to employ the foreigners for two years and thus needed residence permits for them.

It turns out Shen is an employee of a visa agent and posts ads online, promising to help foreigners get residence permits or extend their

visas in exchange for 1,000 yuan per person.

The two foreigners, small-business owners in town, approached Shen for help after seeing his ad in June.

After receiving their payment, Shen created a fake business license, copies and seals, as well as forged contracts with the foreigners and submitted them to the PSB.

On July 9, Shen was arrested when he returned to the PSB to claim the residence permits. He was given 10 days in jail for the crime.

The municipal PSB would like to remind all foreigners in town of the correct procedure for applying for a residence permit.

How to apply for a resident permit

- Find a qualified employer and sign a contract;
- Download the work permit application form at bjld.gov.cn and fill it out;
- Take the employer's business registration documents and the application form to the Personnel Bureau to register and apply for a work permit and foreign expert's license;
- Download the residence permit application form at bjgaj.gov.cn and fill it out;
- Take the documents and licenses to the PSB's Entry-Exit

Administration to apply for a residence permit or extend visa for six months, 12 months or 24 months.

Beijing Personnel Bureau

Where: 3 Taijichang Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 am – 5 pm (Monday – Friday)

Tel: 6559 0180

Beijing Entry-Exit Bureau

Where: 2 Andingmen Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 am – 5 pm (Monday – Saturday)

Tel: 8402 0101

"I didn't want to become one of the many who, to eat, to earn a reputation or to maintain fame, rely on documentary filmmaking... But I have been filming continuously for the last 10 years to create a diary of images."



Wu Wenguang, a 54-year-old independent documentary filmmaker and founder of independent documentary in China, proves in his films that reality is the smasher of ideals.

Photos provided by Wu Wenguang

Unstable

Penetrating li

By He Jianwei

Wu Wenguang, a 54-year-old independent filmmaker, in his films that reality is the smasher of ideal.

For the first 10 years of his career he was a director. Since then, he has challenged and redefined the camera, he gave cameras to peasants to let

Wu's studio is located in Caoyangdi, about 30 minutes from the downtown in north-east Chaoyang District. The studio is a small theater, where he occasionally screens his works.

His current project is *Memory*, a documentary about the memory of his generation, which grew up in the 1960s and 1970s.

"Younger people are unfamiliar with this period in history, so I try to explore it in both my film and performance works," Wu says. Born in 1956 in Kunming, Yunnan Province, Wu studied Chinese literature at Yunnan University. After graduation, he taught junior high for three years and then worked as a broadcast journalist.

"I'm not the kind of person who follows the rails. When I worked in television, I caught a glimpse of my future in my hometown. To get married and become a father and retire was just too horrible," he says.

He left the television in 1988, moved to Beijing and became an independent documentary filmmaker, theater maker and freelance writer.

He learned on arrival that he was merely one of many who had fled his hometown to chase a dream.

Undaunted, he started on his first film, *Bumming in Beijing: The Last Dreamers*, an account of the wanderings of five young artists who came to Beijing in the late 1980s.

To pursue their artistic dreams, the five rejected state-assigned jobs for an unstable life in Beijing without fixed incomes. Filming began in 1988 and finished in 1990.

At the end of this film, only one artist stayed in Beijing. The other four left for Europe and the US.

"When I finished the film, the chapter that was the 1980s had closed. It had been a new age of romantic fantasy for my generation," Wu says.

In 1995, Wu released *At Home in the World*, a sequel to his first film that followed up on the five artists.

"Five years passed and their lives came full circle. Some went home and some left. Drifting around the world seemed like everybody's fate," Wu says.

Aside from free screenings at bars, univer-

Wu Wenguang's Private

Fuck Cinema

A story of young people who chase their dreams of making it big in film.

When: July 23, 7 pm

Treatment

The director's memories of his dead mother and the search for emotional

Life through documentary



Wang Zhutian, a cinema maniac, comes to Beijing in hopes of realizing his script.

documentary filmmaker and founder of independent documentary in China, proves s. a recorder of lives, watching people struggle to pursue their dreams. and conventional wisdom about documentary filmmaking. Rather than hiding behind st them make their own films.

ties and libraries, Wu's documentaries have ever been shown on mainland television or nema. However, they are a staple of international film festivals such as the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, the Berlin International Film Festival, and the Montreal International Film Festival.

"It used to be hard for independent filmmakers to show their works to more people ack then. The public was not interested in anything longer than 30 minutes. For most eople, documentaries had to be short and sily digested, like popular film," Wu says.

That changed at the end of the 1990s. More young people started to produce ocumentaries, organize movies and deos. Some tried to do experimental screenings and new venues to present their work.

Wu's 1999 documentary *Jiang Hu: Life on the Road* was his first film seen by domestic ewers. The film followed a group of traveling eformers from rural China. The performers oped to make their fortune in the big city, ut their every new idea was met with failure.

"I'm interested in people who, for one eason or another, are forced to leave their ometown," Wu says.

For the next five years he did not release nything. Many wondered if his creative days ere over.

He wondered too. "I didn't want to become one of the many ho, to eat, to earn a reputation or to main- fame, rely on documentary filmmaking. hat's why I stopped putting anything out ere," he says. "But I have been filming con- uously for the last 10 years to create a diary f images."

Wu has finished three films since 2005. he Ullens Center for Contemporary Art is reening all of them next week.

"These three films show those 10 years of otage - my diary of images," Wu says. "They ark the start of the time when I started xperimenting."

The first film, *Fuck Cinema*, depicts young mpkins trying to make it in the film industry.

The main character is a 28-year-old an, Wang Zhutian, a cinema maniac who omes to Beijing in hopes of having his ript produced. Another character is a ung man whose love of cinema culmi-

nates in a career selling pirated DVDs. It also follows several young girls who come to chase dreams of stardom.

"This time I am both the maker of the ocumentary and the guy asking why we make films," Wu says. "I appear in the documentary and never hide my own bewilderment or conflicts with the characters."

One of the characters, Wang, attacked Wu because he thought Wu's work was based on his tragedy. At first Wu had planned to edit out the conflict: in the end he kept it. "In the end, I found it wasn't only the young people in the film who were crazy about cinema. I was too," he says.

The second film, *Treatment*, explores the director's memories of his mother, who died in 2007. After sorting through 12 years of footage and editing the film, he realized it was not just about remembering his mother - it was an experiment in bringing her back to life.

"It is a process of healing and self-healing. I was able to escape sorrow by making this film," he says.

The final film is *Bare Your Stuff*, about his Villager Documentary Project that spanned from 2005 to 2009. Wu gave cameras to 10 villagers from nine provinces and asked them to film scenes at home.

The results were more than Wu could have imagined. One villager in Hunan Province recorded a polluted river in his village. The scenes were so shocking that it motivated the local government to finally clean it up.

But the project was not all smooth going. Many villagers were suspicious of Wu when he gave them free cameras, free training and accommodations in Beijing.

They also complained that Wu's editing did not reflect their ideas.

At the end of 2009, when he sorted the materials collected during the project, Wu decided to tell the story of his relationship with the villagers, including how those relationships had changed and developed.

"The point is not to detail the Villager Documentary Project in all its successes and failures, or count the ways it shines," he says. "It is simply about how these complete strangers and I became tied, bound and rolled up together. It's about the grit of people's interactions."



Wu feels sorrow for the loss of his mother. Filming *Treatment* helped the director escape.



Wu Wenguang trains rural villagers to film their own scenes at home.



Treatment is a film about the director's memories of his dead mother.

Portraits

healing.

When: July 24, 4:30 pm

Bare Your Stuff

The relationship between Wu Wenguang and the rural filmmakers who participated in his Villager Documentary Project.

When: July 25, 6:30 pm

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Admission: 15 yuan per film for adults, 10 yuan for students

Tel: 8459 9269

Led Zeppelin's stairway to implosion

By Charles Zhu

Enthusiasts ever fascinated by the extraordinary rock 'n' roll of Led Zeppelin will love *When Giants Walked the Earth* by British journalist Mick Wall, writer or co-writer of the definitive biographies of Ozzy Osbourne, Bono and Iron Maiden.

The book gives the most complete account yet of the great British rock band. It devotes much space to the mythic image of the band, telling about Jimmy Page's studies of magic and how it shaped their extraordinary music – and perhaps how it contributed to the band's decline.

The book tells how Jimmy Page, a hot session guitarist, killed time in a band called the Yardbirds when he decided he could do much better by forming a new band. He found Robert Plant and John Bonham, vocals and drums respectively, and another session guy, John Paul Jones, who played the bass.

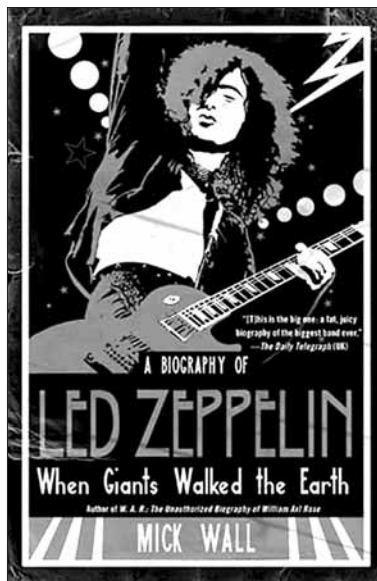
In Wall's words, Robert Plant was "tall, blond and looked good enough to eat, a veritable golden god shaking what he'd got – the perfect visual foil to Page's darker, more slender, slightly effeminate persona."

The band performed its first gig within weeks of its initial rehearsal and booked time in the studio not long after. Mostly it borrowed material from other people's songs.

But did Led Zeppelin sell its soul for rock 'n' roll?

Wall makes his own assessment: "Only someone who knew nothing about the occult could indulge in such an obvious fantasy. Page's interest in occult ritual is so serious and longstanding it would be facile to suggest anything as feeble-minded as a pact with the Devil."

The book reads like a fan's notes. It offers a glimpse into the recording of each album. Readers travel with it from the band's beginnings, in 1968, to what Page, Plant and bassist Jones have been up to since drummer John Bonham's death in 1980.



When Giants Walked the Earth: A Biography of "Led Zeppelin"
By Mick Wall, 520pp, Orion, \$18.47

Instead of indulging in a narrative of the destructive side of their life – especially those of "the beast," Bonzo Bonham – and in the anecdotes about groupies, Wall dwells on the sessions, on Page's novel use of hanging mikes in the studio – so that the band "moved the air about the room."

He also discusses the inspirations for "Dazed and Confused," "Whole Lotta Love" and "Stairway to Heaven," which have been borrowed to one degree or another from existing folk and blues pieces.

However, Led Zeppelin had charisma and produced albums that sold millions of copies. On account of its enormous success, the band began to do morally offensive things to young women who

offered themselves up for pleasure. The book includes the famous story of the groupie and the shark – one so horrifying it could turn away many listeners.

As Zeppelin's success skyrocketed in the early 1970s, Page and Plant openly courted an occult identity for the band. There seemed to be an obscure system of symbolism and ritual at work that infiltrated the albums and performances, creating for Page "an energy ... that the audience picked up on and sent back to us. Really powerful stuff."

They courted magical associations, and then they paid for them.

The active life of Led Zeppelin was brief, lasting from 1968 to 1975.

After that, Led Zeppelin met with its own curse. Plant had a horrible car accident, and then his son died, and then Page degenerated into heroin addiction. Bonham tried to alleviate his unhappiness by consuming the equivalent of 40 shots of alcohol in one day.

"The thing is, it wasn't new to us to see Bonzo (Bonham) drink and pass out. I knew a lot of people who used to do that. Maybe in this day and age it might ring alarm bells. But in those days it was the norm within the sort of people that you knew," Page said.

After Bonham's death, Led Zeppelin dispersed.

The author attributes the band's demise and the personal tragedies of its members to the excess and arrogance that comes with success. Other reasons Wall cites are flagging album sales, the rise of punk and changing tastes, heroin addiction, the tragic loss of Plant's 5-year-old son and Bonham's death.

In recent years, resurgent interest has led to the success of albums such as 2007's *Mother'ship*. There was the one-off benefit concert that reunited Page, Plant and Jones at London's O2 arena. Page and Plant have collaborated on new projects and performances while Jones has become a successful producer.

International Book Fair focuses on Indian culture

By Han Manman

Indian culture will be the focus of this year's Beijing International Book Fair scheduled to open August 30.

Most of the world's top international publishers and agents have announced plans to participate.

According to Wu Jiangjiang, deputy director of the fair's organizing committee, this year's fair is expecting to attract 2,000 exhibitors from home and some 56 other countries.

Some of the world's leading publishing groups including Pearson, HarperCollins, Reed Elsevier and Wolters Kluwer, among the top four in the world, have confirmed their attendance, organizers said.

India is the guest of honor country this year to celebrate 60 years of diplomatic ties with China.

"As India's stature among the communities of nations grows because of its political, intellectual and economic advancements, it's natural that its publishing industry endeavors to get proper international acceptability and respectability," said Nagaraj Naidu from Indian embassy.



India, the guest of honor at 2008's Moscow Book Fair, is this year's focus in Beijing. Photo provided by Embassy of India

In recent years, the country has been the focus of international publishing attention because of special status granted to it as the guest of honor country at Frankfurt Book Fair 2006, Paris Book Fair 2007 and London Book Fair 2009, he said.

Naidu said 25 major Indian publishers will attend the fair to show off a range of titles, from new novels to historical and religious texts.

A special exhibit of Indian publications on Buddha and Buddhism will be part of the country's presentation. Books on and by Rabindranath Tagore will mark the 150th birthday of the Indian poet, and books on and by Jawaharlal Nehru will

celebrate 60 years of Sino-Indian diplomatic relations.

The fair will also work with the Chinese Writers Association and Hanban, the office of the Chinese language council international, to promote local writers and Chinese language learning overseas.

"The accomplishments of Chinese books at overseas promotion programs, initiated in 2006, will be showcased at the event," said Chen Yingming, from the General Administration of Press and Publication.

"In the next 10 years, China will transition from a massive printer to a real power in the publishing field, according to a strategic plan by the General Administration of Press and Publication of the People's Republic of China earlier this year," he said.

"This year also marks a turning point that has seen many state-owned publishing houses and media transformed into market-oriented businesses. The effects and achievements of this reform will be demonstrated at the fair," Chen said.

The fair will be held at the China International Exhibition Center from August 30 through September 3.

Bookworm book listing

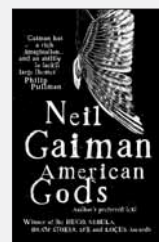
Vivian Wang from the Bookworm recommends the following bestsellers to *Beijing Today* readers.



Burying the Bones: Pearl S. Buck in China

By Hilary Spurling, 352pp, Profile Books, \$25.99

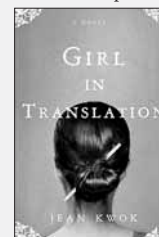
Pearl S. Buck was raised in China by American parents, Presbyterian missionaries from Virginia. Blonde and blue-eyed she looked startlingly foreign, but felt at home as her Chinese companions. She ran free on the grave-littered grasslands behind her house, often stumbling across the tiny bones of baby girls who had been suffocated at birth.



American Gods

By Neil Gaiman, 624pp, Harper Perennial, \$14.99

Released from prison, Shadow finds his world turned upside down. His wife has been killed; a mysterious stranger offers him a job. But Mr. Wednesday, who knows more about Shadow than is possible, warns that a storm is coming – a battle for the soul of America – and they are in its direct path.



Girl in Translation

By Jean Kwok, 304pp, Riverhead Hardcover, \$25.95

When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, she quickly begins a secret double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evening. Disguising the more difficult truths of her life – the staggering degree of her poverty, the weight of her family's future and her secret love for a factory boy who shares none of her talent or ambition – Kimberly learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles.

(By He Jianwei)

Ordinary body types on the runway

15

Trend

By Wang Yu

Every year, fashion watchers ask the same question: how can you know whether those awesome clothes the models show off will fit the average person?

The answer is simple. You can't.

While the industry gets its money from people with ordinary body types, the runways only have room for Size 0. Fashion blogger, which have already triumphed over fashion magazines as the

top source for fashion advice, have for years challenged the industry to step out of its comfort zone and put average people on the runway. They may finally win that battle.

China's fashion industry is still relatively young, and its perennially weak designs rarely wow an audience. But hiring ordinary people as models – a trend that began as a cost-cutting strategy – may bring new followers to domestic fashion labels.



Zhang Da

Photo provided by UCCA

Buyers perform

On August 15, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) will host a fashion show for the Winter 2010 collection from Zhang Da's Bondless series. The models will be average people who were found through an internet ad.

Zhang is known for being unknown. He has given few interviews and appeared at few promotions since founding Pharallel in 2005. At last week's press conference, many of the fashion editors did not know who he was even though he has cooperated on designs with brands like Hermes.

But his latest show's concept was born to attract attention. The show, held at an art gallery, will not have a runway to separate viewers and models.

"No one is perfect, and no clothes are perfect," Zhang says. "Professional models are 'special people' who create illusion to lure in buyers. I thought, Hey, why not let the buyers themselves display the products?"

Bondless is inspired by working-class apparel – especially the styles found in rural China. Materials are also sourced at ordinary markets: clothes made of everything from canvas to decorative fabrics found at IKEA.

Zhang's challenge was to balance taste and budget.

"My former designs were more abstract," he says. "This time I kept things simple. Common materials and patterns are easy to find and cheap, and they can work well on the body."

Another big plus to using average buyers as models is that it saves money. Lots of money.

"Normally you have to make clothes that suit the model's body before the show. After the show, you remake all your designs to fit normal people. By using normal people from the start, we only go through one



Nathan Zhang tailors a jacket for his friend Xiao Bao, one of his models.

Photos by Bo Wen

production cycle," Zhang says.

"This is something special, but I don't want to hype it. In the West, a lot of new designers call on their friends to be models at their first shows. Their only payment is usually a dress or shirt."

Normal can be outstanding

Nathan Zhang, owner of the charity shop Brand Nü, staged a successful fashion show at Green T House in Shunyi District last December.

His models were his friends, and his designs were made by altering whatever was on hand at his secondhand shop. Scottish designer Laura Tinley helped with the alterations on 10 suits.

The dresser and lighting engineer worked for free. Models wore dark made up to match the electronic music Zhang chose for the show. The lighting was dim because they didn't have enough equipment, but that limitation

made for a unique show.

About 70 people attended, some of whom mistaking Zhang's team for fashion professionals. The event gave the non-models a chance to learn something about themselves.

"I choose these people because they were friends and agreed with my ideas," Zhang says. "Secondhand clothing offers creative flexibility. I wanted to break the concept of gender with my designs. I had Sun Lingsheng (lead singer of Super VC) wear a dress to match his skinny jeans; the rock star's performance shocked a lot of people."

"I think it is because they were unprofessional that their style fit so well with the character of secondhand clothing," Zhang says.

Being open to ideas

Nathan Zhang has never studied fashion design – his taste was synthesized from years directing fashion programs on TV but his second-hand designs were a success.

Zhang Da says that a good look depends largely on a designer's willingness to change.

His studio serves a niche ignored by many other original brands: clothes that flatter "average looking."

Many would describe a suit as either fitting or conflicting with one's style. But style is not the same as beauty, which comes in all shapes and sizes.

"We designers need to develop products that are flexible enough to be worn by more people. I also think buyers need to be more open-minded about new styles," Zhang Da says.

"Some of my friends always want to change their look. Once in a while they succeed, but often the result is terrible. People assume they must be fashion experts just because they have the courage and confidence to experiment."

There is no underestimating the impact fashion has on self-identity. Nathan Zhang's shop may sell clothes a few years out of date, but those relics offer the creative-minded endless opportunity to reinvent their look.

Zhang Da's new collections will be available at the UCCA store. He says that unlike mall outlets, customers likely to shop at a gallery store will be much more open-minded.

Creative home equipment and accessories

By Li Zhixin

+86, a store popular among university students and young professionals, opened its flagship at 798 Art District last Saturday. *Beijing Today* checked out the shop's newest offerings and discovered things as varied as electric kitchen equipment, IT accessories and endearing knick-knacks.



All products feature traditional patterns.

Photos by Song Nannan



Inside Tang' Roulou store



Buying for charity in Sanlitun

By Wang Yu

Most people associate Sanlitun with fancy shops, restaurants and bars beloved by foreigners and yuppies. Few know that the tenants include shops involved in charity work.

Among them is Tang' Roulou, a children's wear shop that recently moved from the Drum and Bell Tower neighborhood. Its name is taken from a traditional snack of sugarcoated haws on a stick.

The shop shares a room on Sanlitun Street with a home equipment design firm, and is located across from the office of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef). Compared with its old location, the new Tang' Roulou is smaller, and shoppers may feel like they're browsing the apartment of a friend.

The lighting fixtures and furniture exude an urban, contemporary feel. A dis-

play shelf on one side of the door contains Chinese style stationery designed by the shop's French co-owner, Amelie Peraud.

"We're glad to move to Sanlitun," says Pierre-Yves Babin, a co-owner. "We expect to have more customers since there are more visitors."

The shop's latest collection for the season includes baby sleeping bags (420 yuan), baby quilts (450 yuan) made of thinner materials and towel blankets (180 yuan). There are also new designs of reversible diapers and milk bottle bags (180 yuan).

All products feature traditional patterns, such as white dots on a red background and a big "xi" character, designed by both Peraud and Babin. Peraud studied needlework in China after being impressed by a traditional baby dress she bought for a French friend and expectant mother. The products

are all made by a Beijing tailor whom Peraud has known for years.

Displayed beside the children's clothes are book covers made with dotted cloth and embroidered with the phrase "nuli xuexi," or "study hard." They are the product of the shop's collaboration with Fem Ningxia, a French NGO that works with women in impoverished communities.

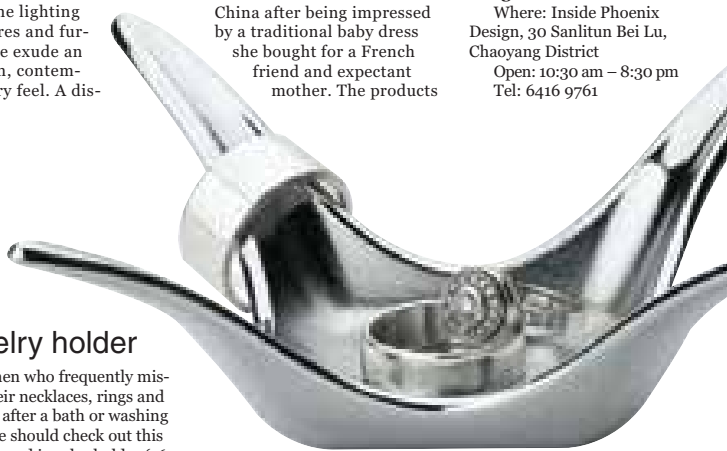
All the embroidery is done by members of Baihua, a women's cooperative in Ningxia province, and 50 percent of the proceeds will be given to the cooperative to pay for the salary and training of its workers.

Besides managing Tang' Roulou, Peraud and Babin also teach at the French School.

Tang' Roulou

Where: Inside Phoenix Design, 30 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10:30 am - 8:30 pm
Tel: 6416 9761



Jewelry holder

Women who frequently misplace their necklaces, rings and earrings after a bath or washing their face should check out this hand-shaped jewelry holder (165 yuan). Rings go on the four fingers stretched upward, while earrings and necklaces can be placed on the cushioned "palm."

+86 Design Store

Where: E03, Qixing Dong Jie, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am - 8 pm
Tel: 6530 2238



Double happiness

Cut-outs and stickers bearing *shuangxi*, or "double happiness," are associated with Chinese weddings. But married people do not have a monopoly on the character; single can get their dose of bliss with +86's hand bags (445 yuan), coasters (199 yuan), candles (88 yuan), purses (265 yuan), cups (88 yuan), key chains (188 yuan) and photo frames (325 yuan).



Wall decorations

Are you tired of looking at your plain bedroom walls? If hanging paintings does not appeal to you, why not try pinning up three-dimensional decorations? +86 sells elegant flower and dragonfly designs (258 yuan per set) that can help brighten up your home - and your mornings.

Mouse Pad

Get a nifty pad for your mouse so it doesn't look so lonely sitting beside your computer. Among +86's merchandise is one shaped like the World Cup Trophy (38 yuan). If you cheered on La Furia Roja to victory, you might want to have your own trophy.



Storage box

Storage boxes are a must for women who own a gazillion trinkets. Unlike ordinary cartons that have a rough surface and look bleak, +86's storage boxes (78 yuan) contain images from popular children's stories and cartoons.



Photos provided by +86

Traditional French cuisine at VIC



Traditional French bakery



Chicken liver terrine

By Annie Wei

To commemorate Bastille Day – France's national day, celebrated this past Wednesday – VIC restaurant at Sofitel Wanda Hotel is hosting "French Week" through Sunday.

Executive chef Christian Werdenberg is adding hard-to-find French specialties to its regular buffet selection. To start, there are four traditional salads from different regions in France, like a tomato-based ratatouille salad with herbs from Provence.

Beijing Today recommends the traditional French appetizer pork pate paired with cranberry sauce. The chicken liver terrine is also

good. It is made with apple puree and looks like tiramisu in a small glass; the cream is heavy yet delightful. We also enjoyed the pork roulette – cooked slowly for three hours – a traditional French meat paste that goes with bread.

There are more than 10 different traditional hot dishes. We recommend the red wine chicken. Many dishes employ a lot of wine because the French like wines, said Werdenberg. Veal roulade with mushrooms is another good dish: a beef roll stuffed with tomatoes and mushrooms, with a dash of apple. And bouillabaisse is can't-miss – it is a crayfish

Chocolate mousse

Photos by Ye Jun

soup with a strong yet rich flavor achieved after preparation with cognac and cream.

A surprise to many diners is that VIC offers special pastries and ice creams during French Week. Apart from classic French cakes like Douceur lactee cake, graffiti cake, formage blanc cake and chocolate savarin, there is a

special chocolate cake from Lenotre, a prestigious French culinary institute.

There will be 31 kinds of ice cream, with flavors like yoghurt, honey, walnuts and black current. They taste fresh and have strong flavors and are more unique than anything you'd find at the supermarket.

VIC

Where: 6/F, Sofitel (Beijing) Wanda, 93 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: Lunch buffet: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, 208 yuan, with 15 percent surcharge

Dinner buffet: 6-10:30 pm, 278 yuan with 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 8599 6666 ext. 6521

New



Gung Ho offers home delivery

By Annie Wei

Sanlitun and the area around Workers Stadium, which has the most pizza options in town, added another pizza establishment last week when Gung Ho Pizza opened its doors.

Unlike its competitors, Gung Ho is very small, with only six stools. It is primarily a delivery outlet, as evidenced by the dozen



Pepperoni pizza, 40 yuan

delivery bikes parked outside.

Beijing Today recommends Gung Ho's thin-crust pizzas. For a classic, try the pepperoni pizza (40 yuan for medium, 55 yuan for large), which uses hand-spiced pepperoni.

For vegetarians, the fresh

New

Thin-crust pizzas go delivery

rocket (40 yuan / 55 yuan) is a good choice, as it gives you liberal helpings of fresh Arugula rocket leaves and shaved Parmesan cheese.

The house special is the smoked pork and mushroom pizza (55 yuan / 70 yuan), which comes with hand-smoked pork, green garlic and a selection of wild Chinese mushrooms.

Cheese lovers should go for the four-cheese pizza (55 yuan / 70 yuan), which features

blue, ricotta, goat and mozzarella cheese topped with a fresh herb blend.

The pizzas are all available in plain or whole-wheat crust. Salads are also available (30 yuan for medium, 50 for large). We recommend the summer salad, which is prepared with Xinjiang pear, blue cheese and walnuts, and the frisée salad, served with the restaurant's own sherry-honey vinaigrette.

Apart from sodas (5 yuan) and beer (Corona, 15 yuan), Gung Ho offers freshly squeezed juices (22 yuan) and inexpensive

wines from China and New Zealand. A bottle of Grace Vineyard Chardonnay or Cabernet Sauvignon from China costs 120 yuan, while imports cost 150 yuan.

The restaurant is offering a buy-one, get-one-free promotion until the end of the month.

Gung Ho!

Gourmet Factory Pizza

Where: 101 Building 3, China View, 2 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am to midnight

Tel: 8587 1404/1370

Web site: gunghopizza.com

Photos by Jim Boyce

Cool drinks available at Gongti



Martini series, 50 yuan

By Annie Wei

The area around Workers Stadium is adding yet another cool spot for bar-goers who enjoy cool decor and quality drinks: George's.

Owner George Zhou, former co-owner of Q Bar, has built a solid reputation making cocktails. Lucky for patrons of his new bar, most drinks are priced between 30 and 45 yuan. Martinis cost for 50 yuan, which is

still 10 to 20 yuan less than what you would find at Sanlitun bars.

Zhou recommended some of his new drinks, including a 50-yuan special ruby red cocktail with an almond flavor. "It was just invented last year, so it does not have a name yet," Zhou said.

George's has an impressive collection of martinis as well. Its new apple martini (50 yuan) tastes fresh and has a strong apple fragrance. For those who enjoy fruity

flavors, mango mashes (50 yuan) are very popular.

The bar has two floors and is quite spacious. A long bar and two long tables make it easy to chat with neighbors and make new friends.

George's

Where: Near Gate 12 inside the East gate of Workers Stadium, Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 5 pm to late

Tel: 6553 6299



Owner George Zhou

Photos by Jim Boyce

Sparks lit by ink and wash paintings

By He Jianwei

Ink and wash painting has become an enduring symbol of Chinese culture and identity since it aims not only to depict subjects, but also to capture their soul.

The past decade has seen a rapid development of Chinese contemporary art, in which native artists incorporate Western art forms such as oil painting, installation, video and performance art.

Still, there are those who seek to breathe new life to traditional art. Among them are five Western-educated artists who present *Whisper of the Wind*, an exhibition of works inspired by ink and wash paintings, opening at Beyond Art Space tomorrow afternoon.

He Sen, 42, is famous for his almost photographic images of smoking women with blurry white faces. In this exhibition, he presents "Ma Yuan - Rippling Lake in Mist," an oil reproduction of the ancient painter Ma Yuan's masterpiece.

Ma, who lived during the Song Dynasty (960-1279), was renowned for his landscape paintings that featured forceful and dramatic brushstrokes and

which eliminated all but the most essential details of a landscape, giving them a simple, poetic air.

"The ancient painters created their own art language," He said. "What I did was just to ask about the meaning of those paintings through my reproductions."

Another exhibitor, Hou Yong, 34, has adopted Western styles to create abstract paintings of water - an eternal theme

in ink and wash paintings.

Cao Jinping, 38, paints landscapes using techniques from traditional line drawing, while Li Wei, 35, captures Beijing's beauty in ink.

Peng Wei, 36, uses the traditional media of paper and ink to portray contemporary forms, and her works are seen as providing a contemporary female reinterpretation of traditional aesthetics.

As a whole, the exhibition reflects dedication to and delight in the artistic ideal while eliciting in viewers feelings of tranquility.

Whisper of the Wind

Where: Beyond Art Space, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 29, daily except Monday, 11 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9561

Upcoming

Movie

Julie & Julia (2009)

The film juxtaposes the lives of Julie Child, an American chef, and Julie Powell, an American author. Both women find themselves at loose ends until they discover that with the right combination of passion, fearlessness and butter, anything is possible.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District
When: July 22, 6:35 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 8229 6153

Stage in August

Concert

Myung-Whun Chung and the Asia Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA), 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: August 6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

The Voice of Angel - Philadelphia Boys' Choir and Choral

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District
When: August 11, 7:30 pm
Admission: 10-100 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

Cyprien Katsaris Piano Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: August 21, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-380 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

White Bear - Wu Na with 'Beijing Express' from Belgium

Where: 46 Theater, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District
When: August 27, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-80 yuan
Tel: 6417 0058

Drama

I Don't Want to Sing Alone

Where: Oriental Pioneer Theater, 8-2 Dongdan Santiao Wangfujing, Dongcheng District
When: August 10-22, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-380 yuan, 50 yuan for students
Tel: 6275 8452

I Love Peach Blossoms

Where: Multi-Purpose Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: August 12-15, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-320 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

The Master Builder

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District
When: August 19-20, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-200 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

Opera

Thunderstorm

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: August 28-29, 7:30 pm
Admission: 120-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

5 Friday, July 16

Movie

Scenes of City Life (1935) and Comment Yukong Deplacales

Montagnes (How Yukong Moved the Mountains, 1976)

The first is about several peasants who come to the city and discover the zoetrope. The second depicts the last days of the Cultural Revolution.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District

When: 6:40 pm
Admission: 30 yuan for two films

Tel: 8229 6153

Nightlife

Sound Round

This Xinjiang band combines Latin music with rap and the blues.

Where: Nine Theater, Chaoyang Culture Center, 17 Jintai

Li, Chaoyang District
When: 8 pm
Admission: 80 and 120 yuan, 50 yuan for students
Tel: 6551 6930, 6551 6906

Exhibition

The Note of Staying - Wang Haichuan Solo Exhibition

Wang's works contain no human figures, only buildings and gardens - a remnant of his previous jobs in architecture and landscape design.

Where: Gaodi Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 25, daily except Monday, 11 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6437 7177



6 Saturday, July 17

Exhibition

From New York to Beijing: Graffiti - Blogging in the Street

This show features works by Zhang Dali and Blade, Chinese and American graffiti artists.

Where: C-Space, 319 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 9, daily except Monday, 11 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5127 3248

Movie

Venus Beauty Institute (1999)

Madam Nadine manages a beauty salon that employs Samantha, Marianne and Angele. Unlike Marianne who daydreams of the big day, Angele no longer believes in

love. Marie, the youngest of the three, discovers love with a 60-year-old former pilot.

Where: French Cultural Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6553 2627

Nightlife

DJ Nu-Mark

Nu-Mark has amassed a collection of at least 35,000 records and is recognized as one of the best DJs of the late 1990s.

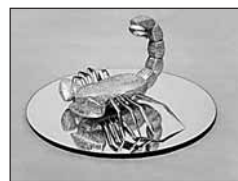
Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 50 yuan advance purchase, 80 yuan at the door
Tel: 6404 2711

7 Sunday, July 18

Exhibition

Revisiting Feng Shu's Post Period Insects at the Opposite House



This is the second part of Feng's Post Period Insects exhibition held at the Opposite

House last year. This time the artist includes a crystalline spiky scorpion and new dragonflies and butterflies.

Where: F2 Gallery, 319 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 30, daily except Monday, 11 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 8831

Nightlife

On this Country's Street

The show's title comes from a new song by Xiao Yang, a folk musician and lead vocalist of the band Submarine.

Where: D-22, 242 Chengfu

Lu, Haidian District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan, 20 yuan for students
Tel: 6265 3177

Movie

Doctor Ma's Country Clinic (2007)

Cong Feng's four-hour documentary introduces the numerous patients of a small medical clinic in rural Gansu province. Their ailments, concerns and conversations about crops, the weather and current events offer rare insights into Chinese rural society.

Where: Ullens Center for

Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 1 pm
Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 8459 9269



Get rid of summer sweat rash

By Li Zhixin

It's easy to remember basic precautions to prevent heat-related injuries on bright and sunny days. But even humid, cloudy days can cause serious injury when prevention comes too late.

Summer rashes

Vivien Tan, 26, hopes the heat wave ends soon. The hot weather has caused her forehead to break out in a sweat rash, also known as miliaria.

She used to be proud of her smooth skin, but the red spots have made her averse to close contact with her friends and colleagues.

"I hate to see my face in the mirror. I

always feel like other people are talking about my face, and it makes it difficult to concentrate on my work," she said. The red patches grew deeper on her head and neck as she scratched them.

Zhang Dun, 31, has sweat rash between his legs. Although the spots are mostly on his inner thighs, which pants and shorts can cover, they still

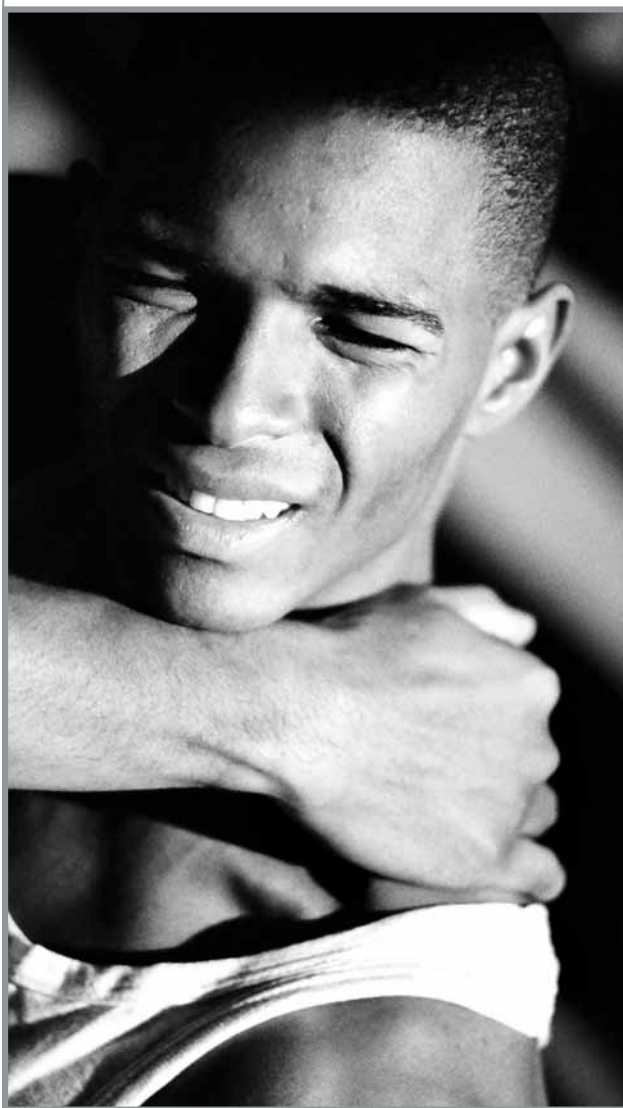
make him uncomfortable.

"It's all right when I'm sitting down. The problem is my commute. When I'm walking, the friction between my skin and the pants feels like pins and needles. The pain is magnified when I start to sweat," he said.

Although both Tan and Zhang tried using perfumes and medicinal waters,

their rashes are only growing worse.

Sweat rashes are a common summer ailment in hot and humid climates. While primarily seen in the tropics, Beijing's heat wave is sending many with it to the hospital, said Jiang Liangduo, a doctor at Dongzhimen Hospital Affiliated to Beijing University of Chinese Medicine.



CFP Photo

Keeping glands open

Sweat rash is caused by an accumulation of sweat in certain parts of the body. With nowhere to go, the sweat erupts into small red bumps on the skin.

"It appears suddenly with a burning, itchy and prickly sensation. However, it does not damage your skin or expose you to another infection," Jiang said.

The rash tends to occur on areas of the body where skin touches skin, such as under the breasts, on the inner thighs and underarms. It also occurs when sweat gland ducts get plugged due to dead skin cells or bacteria such as staphylococcus epidermidis, a common bacterium often found on the skin of people with acne.

All ages are susceptible to sweat rash, but babies and children are more likely to be affected than adults because of their underdeveloped sweat glands. Obese persons are also more susceptible.

"The body cannot cool itself adequately without sweating, and failure to secrete sweat can cause the body to overheat,"

Jiang said. "Before patients develop sweat rash, there is usually a period where they have heat exhaustion symptoms like dizziness, thirst and weakness. When the patient's body temperature rises, often rapidly, to 40 C or above, they break out with a sweat rash."

The same symptoms could also precede heat stroke.

"You can control sweat rash by keeping the skin cool and dry. The easiest way to clear it up is to stay in a cool room or take a cool bath. Powders and antiperspirants can help too," Jiang said.

He said sweat rash can also occur in cooler climates when something is preventing sweating. People who lie on their back for long periods due to illness can get a sweat rash on their back.

Lifestyle can also be a factor. People who overwork, drink, smoke, overworked or who subsist on junk food are putting themselves at risk for sweat rash and other ailments. Its onset can also be triggered by a bout of food poisoning.

Home treatment

If you develop severe sweat rash, there are a few home remedies that can provide instant relief from the itching.

1. Herbs

Herbal treatments to relieve itching include sprinkling arrowroot powder over the rash or rubbing a slice of fresh radish or raw potato over it.

For widespread itching, the patient can take a cool bath with oatmeal. Oatmeal powder is a successful home remedy for heat rash. Add a little bit to a bathtub and stir it well. Take a dip for fast relief from the tenderness and itching.

A bath with ginger, peppermint, wormwood and peach leaves will also increase circulation and keep your skin fresh and cool.

2. Talcum powder and ointments

Apply perfume-free talcum

powder after a bath. This will suck up extra moisture from the body and relieve sweat rash. Repeat this process four to five times a day to keep the body dry and free from sweat and moisture. Some herbal ointments and lotions, like aloe and almond, can soothe the skin.

3. Wet sponge

Take a cotton cloth or sponge and soak it in cold water. Keep it over the sweat rash until the cloth dries out. Repeat this two to three times a day to relieve the inflammation. You can also use diluted oatmeal powder or fresh cucumber juice in place of water.

4. Ice cubes

Ice cubes are a good way to treat sweat rash caused by humidity or heat. Rub small ice cubes over the red bulges and they will shrink.

Tips

1. Remove sweat-soaked clothing immediately. Try to wear loose-fitting cotton.
2. Limit outdoor activities to mornings and evenings during hot weather.
3. Avoid conditions that increase sweating.
4. Drink distilled water instead of cold beverages. Sweet mung bean soup with lotus seeds and white fungus soup can also help.
5. Eat fish rich in fatty acids like salmon, mackerel or herring. Dark green leafy vegetables and flaxseed oil can help provide relief from sweat rash.

The landscape of China Danxia

By Zhang Dongya

Red is the favored color of traditional Chinese culture, symbolizing riches and honor. It is unsurprising, then, that China's Danxia landforms attract special attention: in addition to their natural beauty, they are the national color.

Danxia, literally meaning "red clouds," is characterized by steep cliffs nestled among mountains, canyons and forests. These sedimentary rocks were sculpted by erosion and dyed by deposits of red soil.

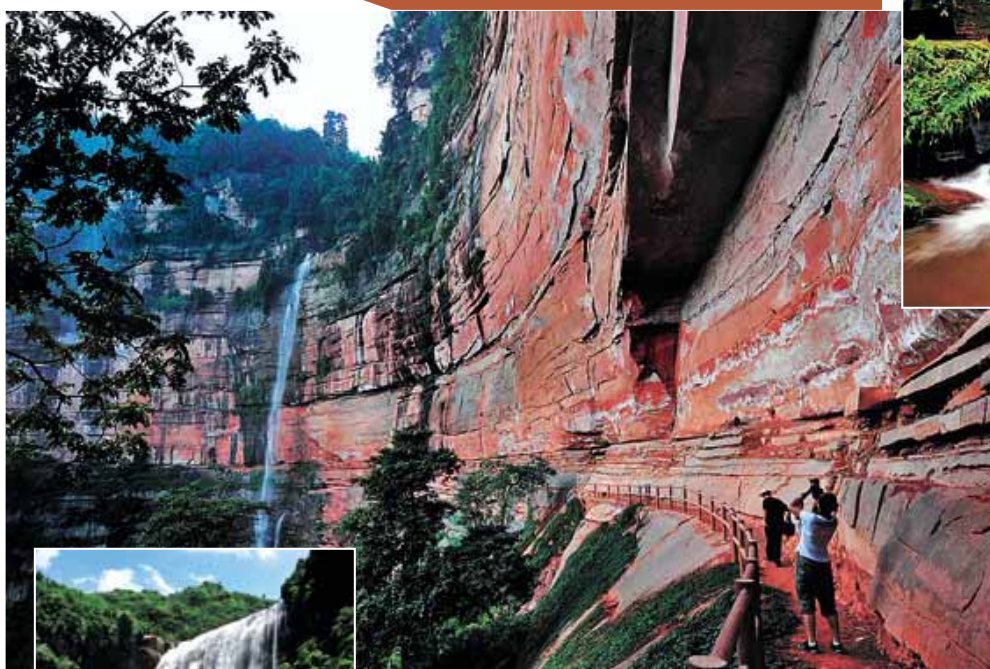
The government has submitted "Danxia Landform of China" to the UNESCO World Heritage Center for recognition as a World Natural Heritage site. The application will be reviewed at the 34th World Heritage Conference in Brasilia, Brazil, on July 25. The nominated consists of six geologically and geographically related Danxia areas: Chishui in Guizhou, Taining in Fujian, Langshan Mountain in Hunan, Danxia Mountain in Guangdong, Longhu Mountain in Jiangxi and Jianglang Mountain in Zhejiang.

The six landscapes vary in age and characteristics, but are all naturally beautiful.



Chishui has the largest area of Danxia in the country. Its bright redness is indicative of a young Danxia landform.

Photos provided by Zhang Huan



The ideal place to view Chishui Danxia is Pillar Peak, which features red arc-shaped cliffs.

CFP Photo



Chishui, the largest of the Danxia areas

The Danxia landform in Chishui, Guizhou Province occupies an area of 120,000 hectares, making it the largest in the country. Its bright redness is indicative of a young Danxia landform.

These red beds are divided by the Chishui River. To the east there are red cliffs and canyons; to the west, brooks, waterfalls, woods and a bamboo thicket.

Wuzhufeng, or Five Pillar Peak, is an ideal place to view the Chishui Danxia. The huge red rocks form arc-shaped cliffs. A tall waterfall in the middle offers a breathtaking view. There is also an expanse of forest that is home to several endangered species.

Another place to go is the Red-Stone Wide Valley. The Danxia here is fire-red. The reflections of visitors standing beside the honeycomb cliffs are tinted red as well. Some of the rock formations resemble creatures such as frogs and turtles.



Blue-water Danxia in Taining

The Danxia in Taining, Fujian Province, is young (in geological terms) and rises over blue water. The landscape here features deep gorges, densely covered caves and a rain forest. In addition, this Danxia features a couple of superlatives: the longest stretch of Danxia rock and the largest Danxia cave.

Chuanyan, or Boat Rock, is a huge Danxia cave able to fit 20,000 people. Locals said it housed a temple until the 1960s; only a Qing Dynasty censer and six wooden coffins remain.

Lijiayan, or Li Family Rock, is a narrow half-natural, half-artificial path planked over a cliff. There is a small Buddhist temple at the end of the trek. Along the way is a cave, which is supposedly where a Ming official named Li Chunye was educated. Now it houses a small Buddhist shrine for nuns. The old wooden handrail along the road has been preserved alongside later-built brick handrails for added safety.

Continued on page 21...



Photos provided by Zhang Huan



The birthplace of Taoism in China, Dragon-Tiger Mountain, once had more than 80 Taoist temples.

CFP Photos



Suspended coffins, with a history of more than 2,600 years, remain a mystery to modern people.

... continued from page 20

Cradle of Taoism in Longhu Mountain

Jiangxi Province's Longhu Mountain, or Dragon-Tiger Mountain, features red hills next to clear water, scattered forests and a wide valley. It was the birthplace of Taoism in China and now serves as an important gathering place for religious adherents.

Taoism at Dragon-Tiger Mountain can be traced back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907), when Taoists built three temples on the mountain. Taoism in the region peaked during the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), when there were as many as 80 temples.

Visitors are also treated to sights of suspended coffins, cliff inscriptions and wall paintings. There are more than 200 suspended coffins located inside cliff caves, some of which date back to 590 B.C. It remains a mystery why people buried their dead inside the caves and how they were able to place the coffins so high up.

Old Danxia in Jianglang Mountain

Jianglang Mountain in Zhejiang Province is typical of Danxia landforms in their older stages. It features three isolated peaks rising into the sky.

On Jianglang you'll find colorful cliffs with lots of caves and rock formations. There is a deep gulch, peculiarly shaped rocks, clean water and green hills; together they form a natural painting to be admired.



Mature Danxia in Langshan Mountain

Langshan Mountain in Hunan Province, with its magnificent clusters of peaks, is an excellent example of classic Danxia in its mature stages.

Located in Xinning County in Shaoyang, Langshan Geologic Park features a Danxia landform and many other attractions. Among the most famous are the Six Miracles, the best scenic spots in the Park, including First Lane, Camel Peaks and Chili Peak.

First Lane is about 239 meters long, with stone cliffs on both sides rising 180 meters. The distance between the two cliffs is less than one meter, with the narrowest gap only a little more than 30 centimeters wide. Camel Peaks and Chili Peak, so named because their peaks resemble a camel and chili, add to the mystique of the area. Writers and calligraphers throughout history have engraved poems and inscriptions at these places.

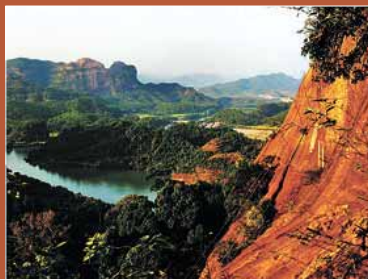
The only mountain named Danxia

Danxia Mountain, located near Shaoguan in northern Guangdong Province, is the only mountain that bears the Danxia name. Surrounded by cliffs and clusters of rock formations, it was formed from erosion of ruddy

sandstones. The cliffs are penetratingly red, like a sun setting into the clouds, and bear even richer colors for those who get a closer look.

A two-story pavilion that can seat 200 rests on Zhanglao (or "elder") Peak. It's a great place to view sunrises and seas of clouds among peaks.

There are a number of temples located on the mountains, with Biezhuan Temple the most famous among them. Built in 1662 during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), it used to be a large Buddhist temple that housed thousands of monks. Destroyed during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), it was restored in the 1980s, with many of the halls and towers rebuilt. It currently houses hundreds of monks and receives visitors daily.



Dining



Asia on a Big Platter

The best of Asian cuisine appears every Sunday at the relaxing Straits Asian Sunday Brunch in the CBD. With prices like 146 yuan, your stress should melt away even before you start eating. Kids from 5 to 11 eat for 76 yuan. Prices are subject to a 15 percent service charge.

Where: CBD International Cuisine, Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Sunday
Tel: 6530 9383

Trattoria La Gondola

Pamper yourself with a three-course summer dinner designed by Italian chef Paulo at cozy Trattoria La Gondola. Enjoy food with a real Italian touch on your next summer evening out.

Where: Kempinski Hotel Beijing, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, 5:30–11 pm

Cost: 220 yuan per person
Tel: 6465 3388 ext. 4215

Chinese

Valentine's Day

Happiness, craziness, confidence, extravagance, sweetness,

joy and comfort. It's love! Chinese lover's day is a wonderful moment to celebrate your feelings for her. Chef Yannick Ehrsam has a unique menu dedicated to this occasion. Gourmet cuisine, refined wine, elegance and Le Pre Lenotre is a combination that spells French romance.

Where: Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
When: August 16
Cost: 1,988 yuan per couple (15 percent surcharge)
Tel: 8599 6666 ext. 6528



Discover Italian regional cuisine

Liguria is the only Italian region that borders the sea to the south, the Alps to the north and the Apennines to the east. Its climate and the historic and commercial traditions of Genoa, home of Columbus, have created a unique cuisine that combines foods from the sea, the garden and the woods. There is an exceptional balance between fresh vegetables, seafood and herbs. One of the most famous products of Liguria and Genoa is basil, which becomes pesto when combined with garlic, parmesan cheese, pine seeds and Ligurian extra virgin oil.

Where: The Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 8522 1888

Thank Funk It's Friday

Celebrate the end of the week in the intimate surroundings of the internationally acclaimed Zeta Bar while listening to some of the finest in rare soul, funk, groove and disco mixed by funk specialist DJ Cruz Lee.

Where: Zeta Bar, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Every Friday, 6 pm onwards

Cost: Free entrance, drinks 50 percent off from 6–9 pm
Tel: 5865 5050



Summer ice tea quenchers

What better way to quench summer thirst than a refreshing glass of ice tea? With a choice of six flavors that range from fruits to flowers, you're sure to find your cup of tea at the lobby lounge.

Where: Lobby Lounge, China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6505 5838

Aviation



Off to a Flying Start

British Airways has started a 'Flying Start' global charity partnership with Comic Relief. It has pledged to raise 168 million (82 million yuan) by 2013 for vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the UK and abroad. Actors Bill Nighy and Nick Frost flew to Kenya on the first 'Flying Start' flight to visit projects that Comic Relief supports.

For information on Flying Start and British Airways' corporate responsibility program or to make a donation, visit ba.com/communityrelations.



Singapore's in-flight mag goes digital

Singapore Airlines' inflight magazine, SilverKris, is available online. Content ranges from in-depth travel features to the latest information on the hippest hotels, most talked about restaurants and stylish getaways.

For more information, visit silverkris.com.

Event



High on Heels

Bust out your sexiest Friday-night number and prepare for a night of eye and ear candy at ROOMbeijing when High on Heels lights up the DJ podium. Direct from London, High on Heels is more than an all-female lineup of dance-floor divas: it's a collective of electrifying house music talent. Four of its artists will rock ROOMbeijing, including DJ MKM (Miss Kellie Marie), veteran DJ of Ministry of Sound, and Hed Kandi. Brian McKenna will be preparing his usual exciting cuisine.

Where: ROOMbeijing, 301-302, Park Life Shopping Center, Beijing Yintai Center, 2 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District
When: August 13
Tel: 8517 2033

DJ Wordy x DJ Lomang

The two-year-old HOTPOT is the capital's best night club. Frustrated by the sea of sameness found at most club nights, DJ Wordy, the three-time China DMC Champion, and DJ Lomang, disc jockey of Ghostface Killah's China tour, make it their monthly mission to come up with something fresh. With guest DJs from Paris, Germany, Japan and the US, HOTPOT is the top choice for non-commercial club music in Beijing.

Where: The Opposite House, Building 1, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
When: August 27
Tel: 6417 6688

Hotel

Embrace – Beijing Charity Moon Cake Collection 2010

Shangri-La operated hotels in Beijing – China World Hotel, Shangri-La Hotel, Kerry Center Hotel, Traders Hotel and Traders Upper East Hotel – are raising funds for underprivileged communities with charity moon cakes as part of their Embrace program. The box of four moon cakes – two white lotus paste and two red lotus paste – is priced 138 yuan per box. For each box sold, the companies will donate 50 yuan to the Dandelion and Hua Ao Shijinshan schools for the children of migrants.

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Beware of certain people and expressions



By Annie Wei

Xiao Xia is a sweet, young nail artist who works at a shop in my neighborhood.

When I visited her for a manicure recently, I caught her sitting by the door, reading a text message and giggling.

"What is that about?" I said.

"A secret lover," a co-worker piped in, "some foreigner."

Xiao Xia blushed, saying, "I'm not interested in him though. I just think it's funny that he texts me in *pingyin*."

"Who is that guy?" I asked. "Is he cute, young and nice?"

Xiao Xia described him as an "old" man who lived in our neighborhood. She said she sees him whenever he walks his dog or drops by the cafe next door to read the paper.

The man turned out to be some-

one I knew: Peter, a 40-something British guy, who used to work as a copy editor.

I immediately warned Xiao Xia to stay away from him. Sure, Peter was not a drug dealer or a human trafficker, but he is the kind of person others should be wary of.

I met Peter five years ago, when I was a newspaper intern and he was new to Beijing. At the time, I was assigned to a photo column that involved arranging product photo shoots and writing about the merchandise.

One of my first issues was about a Beijing morning market, which Peter copy edited.

Two days after the column was published, I got a call from Gabe, an American friend who is like a brother to me and who I totally trust. "Hey, princess, I cannot believe you printed some-

thing inappropriate like that in your newspaper," he said.

I was puzzled, since I always double-check the accuracy of my stories.

Gabe pointed out the culprit: "Where you can grab two vegetables and a meat."

"I'm not British," he said, "but I think that in British slang, 'two vegetables and a meat' refers to the male genitals."

Gabe and I were able to confirm this with Chloe, a British friend of ours. Chloe said the phrase was very colloquial and quite crude. "It's really not appropriate for use in a serious publication," she said.

Now you know why I want Xiao Xia to stay away from Peter. How can you have regard for a person who tries to make a joke at someone else's expense?

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. People who are in possession of a comfortable life must be living in Chengdu.

Professor Shida Zhu (SZ): The writer composed this sentence along the vein of the first sentence of *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." Good fortune is something concrete, and thus can be possessed. "A comfortable life," however, is something abstract and cannot be possessed.

Our writer's error lies in his rhetoric. "Possession" is not the right word for the occasion; changing it into "pursuit" will make the sentence right: People who are in pursuit of a comfortable life must be living in Chengdu. A comfortable life is something to be pursued.

Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): Because the comfortable life has not yet been realized, perhaps it is better to use the future tense: People who are in pursuit of a comfortable life may want to choose to live in Chengdu.

2. To retain, to remain

SZ: Some time ago, I came across this sentence: "The villagers remain their stone-structured caves and rustic lifestyle." It seems the writer got confused with the usage of the verb "to remain" and "to retain" as their Chinese equivalents are fairly similar words. "To remain" is an intransitive verb that means "to continue, keep on and stay." For instance, We shall remain at the seashore until September. It may also mean "to be left," such as, A few apples remain on the trees. The word can never be used as a transitive verb.

The writer wished to say that the local stone caves remain intact and the people's rustic lifestyle has not changed since ancient times. So, it is the verb "to retain" that is correct: The local villagers retain their stone caves and rustic lifestyles.

TBZ: There are many words in English that sound the same and are very difficult for non-native speakers to distinguish. Remain/retain, hurry/worry, tomato/potato are some examples. The funny thing is that native English speakers never confuse these words – to us, they are very different words! The thing with learning a language is that language is very cultural. You are not only learning the words, you are also learning about the values of another culture. Some important, useful words in English may not be useful or important in Chinese at all.

At the beginning, you need not worry about this. At a higher level, you may want to try some translating, perhaps the words of your favorite song, and see the differences that you discover. One language isn't better than the other – it just emphasizes different things, based on the culture from which it arose.

3. Winners of the election will have no choice but make unpopular budget cuts.

SZ: This sentence is incorrect and follows a fairly tricky pattern. We have the phrase "no ... but," in which certain words are omitted. If we write down everything, the error will be clearer: Winners of the election will have no choice but the choice to make unpopular budget cuts. Usually, "the choice" after "but" is omitted, and you have: Winners of the election will have no choice but to make unpopular budget cuts. It is very important to have proper command of English vocabulary and grammar if you are to write at a high level of English.

TBZ: "No ... but" has to be followed by the infinitive (to + a verb). "To" is a small word – English has lots of small words – that may cause confusion if they are left out. It takes time and practice, so don't be discouraged!

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Common public signs

By Tiffany Tan

The Beijing municipal government managed to fix a lot of Chinglish signs, as well as menu entries, before the world descended on the city for the 2008 Olympics. The story in smaller cities and rural areas is another matter – but one that pleases foreigners who think Chinglish is a reflection of Chinese culture and values and should not be messed with.

But since we're out to correct Chinglish mistakes, certain public signs, such as our three models on the right, should be easy enough to standardize since they appear everywhere. *Buke huishou* must be written on millions of garbage bins all over the country, so sanitation

departments, parks and tourist sites should remember the word "non-recyclable." Throw away "no may reclaim," which is a more suitable message to those who scavenge for used beverage bottles they can sell to recyclers.

Jin zhi kuayue and *xiaoxin boli* are museum mainstays and deserve their correct English translations: "Do not step over" or "No stepping over" for the first, and "Be careful of glass" or "Do not touch glass" for the second.

"No spanning" reminds me of high-wire walkers who choose prohibited venues for their performances, while "Glass with care" sounds like a hybrid of the oft-seen sticker on cargoes, "Handle with care."



Clash of the Titans (2010)

Movie of the week

This movie should have been a hit. Sadly, the director failed to make it so. Transitions between action scenes were – to be kind – poor, and his only attempt at imbuing the characters with “life” was several lines of pathetic dialogue.

It shouldn't have been so hard to write a great script based on a myth. These tales were developed to let the storytellers of antiquity run wild. Yet the plot crafted for *Clash of the Titans* was far too simplistic to be entertaining, let alone thought-provoking.

However as with most Hollywood productions, the visual effects are excellent and the cast boasts a few big name stars, including Liam Neeson and Ralph Fiennes. Sam Worthington, as in *Avatar*, appears here more as a leading figure than an actor.

Synopsis

Found at sea as an infant by a weary fisherman, the demigod Perseus grows up with no knowledge of his celestial origins until his watchful guardian, Io, informs him that he is the son of Zeus.

When Zeus' brother Hades casually wipes out Perseus' family, the grieving son vows to show the gods just what damage mankind can inflict on its creators.

Before long, Perseus and a small group of soldiers venture out into the desert to find a way to stop the Kraken, a terrifying force of nature that an indignant Hades has vowed to unleash upon man should they fail to offer the beloved princess Andromeda as a sacrifice.



Scene 1

(Introduction)

The voice-over: The oldest stories ever told are written in the stars. Stories of time before man and gods, when Titans ruled the earth. The Titans were powerful ... but their reign was ended by their own sons ... Zeus, Poseidon and Hades.

Zeus convinced his brother Hades to create a beast so strong it could defeat their parents. And from his own flesh Hades gave birth to an unspeakable horror ... the Kraken.

Zeus became king of the heavens. Poseidon, king of the seas. And Hades, tricked by Zeus ... was left to rule the underworld in darkness and in misery.

It was Zeus who created man and man's prayers fed (1) the gods' immortality. But in time (2), mankind grew restless. They began to question the gods and, finally, to rise up against them.

Into this world, a child was born. A boy who would change everything.

Scene 2

(Mankind declares war on gods. On the Mount Olympus, Zeus decides to punish man.)

Zeus (Z): I created them and they reward my love with defiance (3)? There will be no truce.

Hades (H): Finally. Some rage from you. How long has it been? How long, brother ... since you've seen my face?

Z: Hades.

H: Endless years, I've watched from the underworld and saw your wrath tempered with love. You created them for one reason: so their prayers would fuel our immortality.

But you love them too well. They've grown strong. And now I am forced to rise because we are all threatened.

Z: What do you want, brother?

H: Let me loose upon (4) them. They will pray again and you will bathe in their awe and fear. And we will grow

strong again.

Apollo (A): He belongs in the underworld, not here.

H: You do not tell me where I belong. You say it is love that feeds us. But you depend on their love. I've only learned to live on their fear ... their pain.

Poseidon: Zeus, our brother speaks the truth. Hear him.

Z: Go. Do what you will.

A: Father, we need the mortals.

Z: No, Apollo. Hades is right. Their insolence has a price. Like children, they need to be reminded of the order of things. Set an example, brother. Turn them on each other and back into our arms.

Scene 3

(On Perseus' way to Medusa, Zeus shows up.)

Perseus (P): Who are you?

Z: Well, you can call me “Father” if you wish.

P: My father's dead. He was killed by a god.

Z: An unfortunate casualty in a war men brought on themselves.

P: Men didn't murder my family. Your brother did.

Z: You heard the witches' prophecy. You will not defeat the Kraken, much less (5) Hades. If you continue this journey, you will die, and Argos will still fall.

P: If you're so sure, why are you here?

Z: To offer you sanctuary. Your blood is mine, Perseus, and that makes you a god. It's time you came to Olympus and started living like one.

P: Rather die in the mud with those men than live forever as a god.

Z: You foolish boy. Man's entire existence is a gift of my grace.

P: For someone who created man ... you don't know much about us. We live, we fight and we die for each other, not for you. Tell Hades I'll see him soon.

Z: I will not make this offer again.

P: Good. Because I'd hate to refuse you twice.



Vocabulary

1. **fed:** the meaning here is closer to nourish or prolong
2. **in time:** eventually
3. **defiance:** bold resistance to an opposing force or authority
4. **loose upon:** to punish
5. **much less:** let alone

(By Wang Yu)